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THE JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB,
FOR THE STUDY OF ALL SPECIES OF BIRDS
IN FREEDOM AND CAPTIVITY :: :: ::

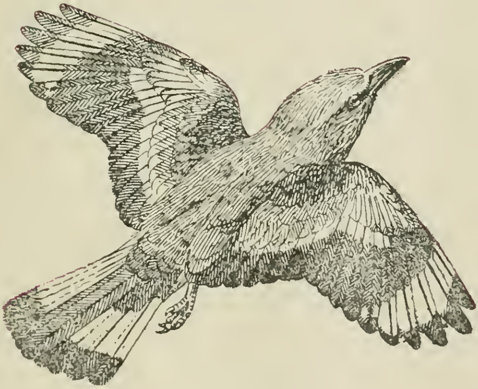
VOLUME VII.—NEW SERIES.

"By mutual confidence and mutual aid,
Great deeds are done and great discoveries made"

EDITED BY

WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., M.B.N.H.S.

AUTHOR OF "AVARIES AND AVIARY LIFE." ETC.



ASHBOURNE.
J. H. Henstock, "Avian Press,"
1916.

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Secretary's Report.

With this issue Vol. VII is completed. During the year the war has raged, but in spite of the arduous and pre-occupied times, a high standard has been maintained. Members will, I think, agree that 1916 compares favourably with former years.

When the next roll appears many names will be missing of those who have given their lives for King and Country.

The Council wish to thank all who have contributed to the success of the past year, either by writing articles, generous donations to the Illustration Fund, or by introducing new members, and trust that many more will so assist during 1917. The Honorary Editor's task has been a heavy one, and he deserves all the help you can give.

May we remind members that the prompt payment of subscriptions will greatly help the Honorary Secretary, whose spare time to give to the work is very limited indeed, owing to the war.

Twenty-nine new members have been added during the year, and if *all* members will do a little (what they can), the coming year should be as, if not more so, successful as the past.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS.

December, 1916.

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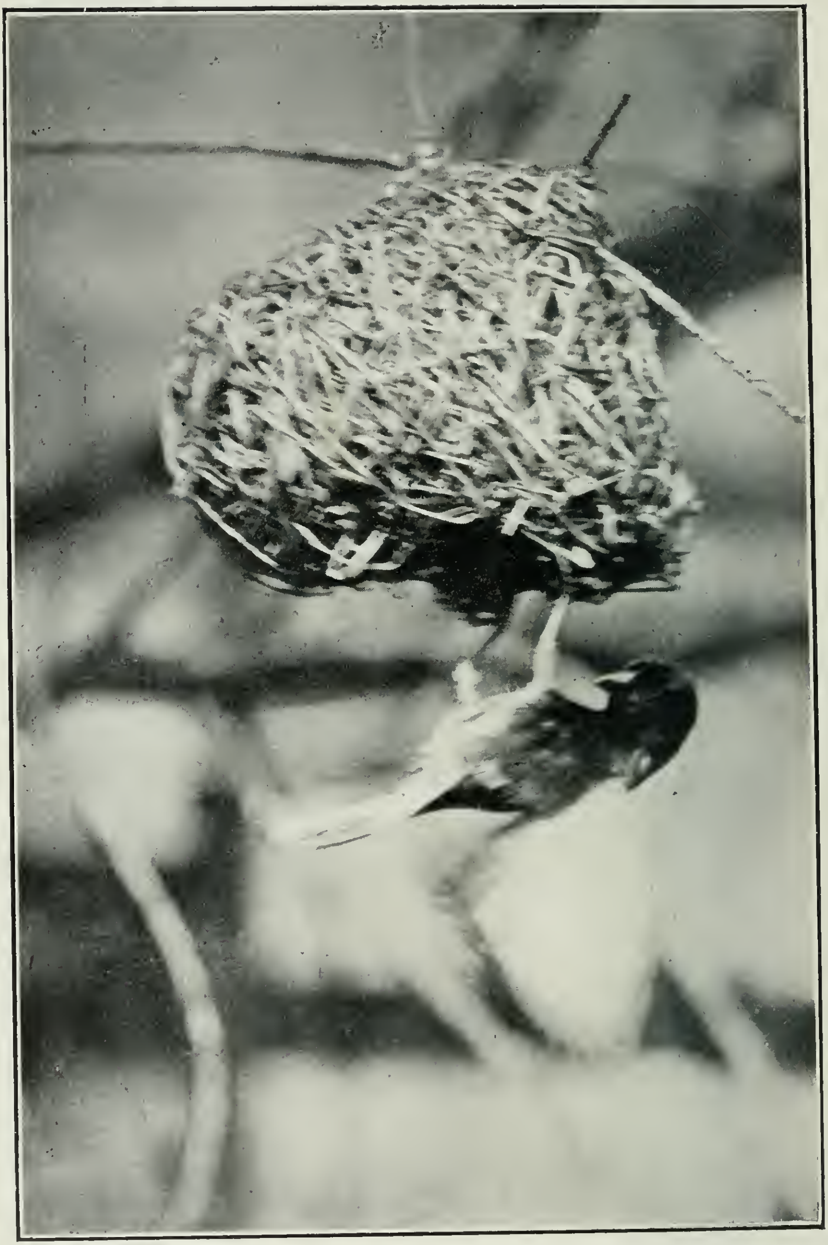

Photo by W. Shore Baily.

Half-masked Weaver Cock displaying.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

The Nesting of Half-Masked Golden and Spot-Winged Weavers.—Three Failures.

By W. SHORE BAILY.

I have written "B.N." so many times this season about the happenings in my aviaries, that it is with some diffidence that I venture to send this record of three failures to raise young amongst my collection of Weavers. The first failure might, with a little more luck, have ended in success. This was with my pair of Half-masked Weavers (*Hyphantornis vitellinus*). The male of this variety is one of the most pleasingly coloured of the *Hyphanthornine* group. The general body colour of the male is greenish-yellow, a narrow band on forehead, and the throat black, crown of head rich chestnut, also a considerable patch of the same colour borders the black patch on throat. The hen is greenish-yellow, and is hard to distinguish from some of the other females of this group.

On the 10th of April, I turned this pair of birds, into a roomy out-door aviary with a pair of Golden Weavers (*Sitagra galbula*), a pair of Red-collared Whydahs, some cock Crimson-Crowned Weavers, and a few other birds. The cock was in full breeding plumage at the time, which the other males were not, and he easily dominated them for the first month or so, but had to take a back seat later, when the larger birds came into colour.

The first week in June, I noticed the hen inspecting one of the nests, of which, by this time he had woven several. Her choice was a particularly well woven one and suspended from the branch of a spruce-tree. She made no attempt at lining it, and on June 10th, her first egg was laid, followed the next day by a second. The eggs were white, heavily marked with large crimson spots. The hen sat steadily while the cock kept guard. On examining the nest on the 23rd of the month, I found that the eggs were still unhatched, and on removing them to see if they were fertile, I managed to break one which contained a live young one, apparently just ready to emerge from the shell. The other egg was replaced and was hatched out the next day, after an incubation period of thirteen days. For the first week the hen alone fed it, mealworms being her favourite food. Afterwards the cock took a most active part in the feeding operations and would take in mealworms as fast as I cared to give them to him. With both parents feeding it, the youngster grew apace, although, of course, this could only be told by feeling it through the small opening in the nest. On July 9th I saw the male bird feeding it on the ground, it evidently had left the nest early that morning. The next day the old birds failed to greet me on my morning visit, and I at once knew that something must be wrong. A diligent search by my man and self, failed to find any trace of the birdling and it is a mystery to me to this day, as to what could have happened to it. It was rather unfortunate as I am now unable to describe its nestling plumage.

Failure No. 2: All this time the cock Golden Weaver had been unmercifully bullied by the Half-masked, although he was considerably the larger bird. He now, however, began to assert himself in his own corner of the aviary, and by the first week of July, had suspended a series of nests from the wire roof. The hen lined one of these with a little wool and a few feathers, and deposited therein three eggs, which were olive green, heavily covered with small red spots and splashes. When she had been incubating a couple of weeks, I examined the eggs and found all to be infertile.

She nested again in August, and September, three eggs being laid on each occasion, all of which were clear. The Golden Weaver is a handsome yellow bird having a little black on forehead and a black throat, the crown of the head is a bright yellow. The hen is also brighter in colour than any of the other Weavers I have seen.

Spot-winged Weaver at nest. *Photo by W. Shore Baily.*

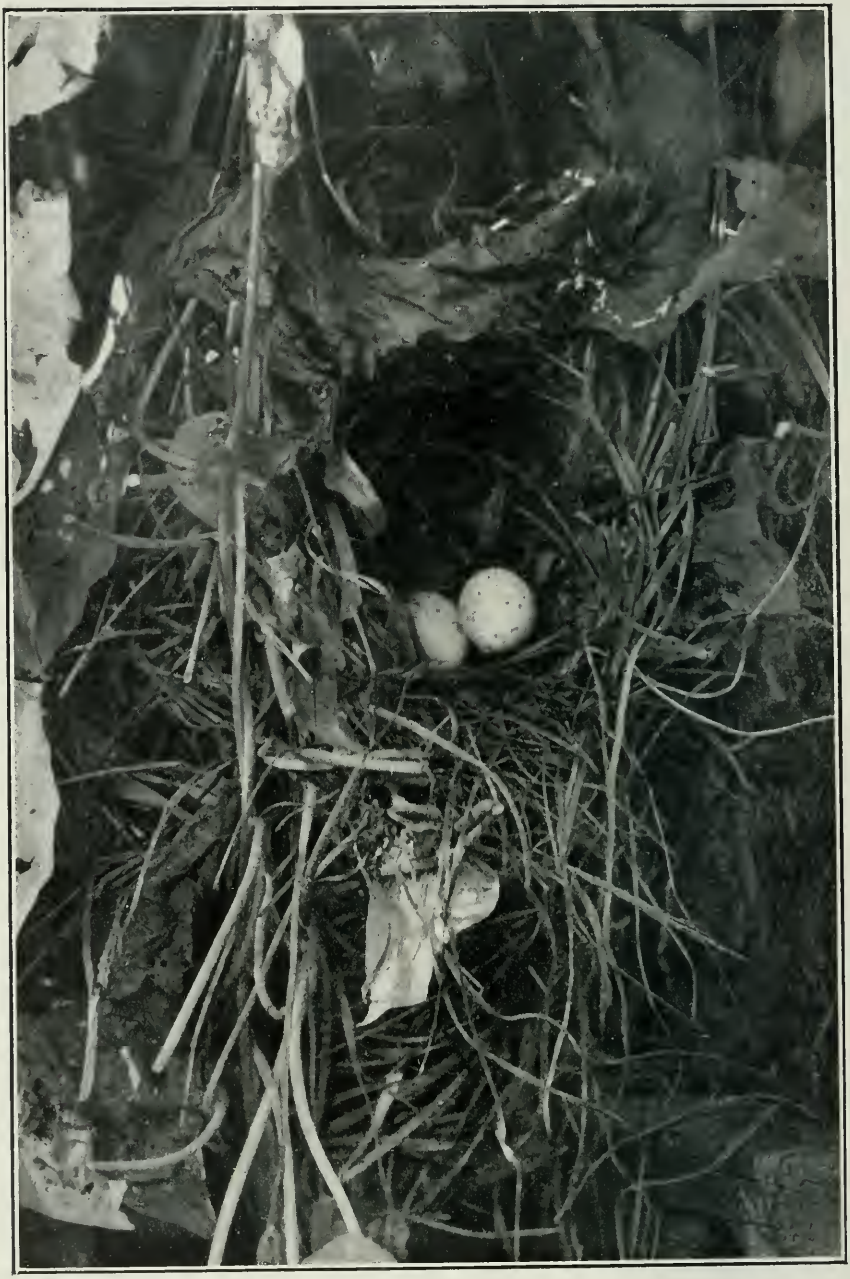

Photo by W. Shore Baily.

Nest and eggs of Spot-winged Weaver.

My third failure occurred late in September, when insect life was getting scarce and the nights were cold. This was with an unknown Weaver hen, that I have called the Spot-winged Weaver (Perhaps our Editor can give us its true name). This bird very closely resembles a Napoleon or Taha hen, but is about twice the size. It is, however, rather warmer in colour on the back than are *P. afra* and *P. taha*, and it has two distinct lines of white spots across the wing coverts. These are plainly shown in the photo. I got this bird some time ago from Mr. Yealland, as a cock, and he informed me that several had seen it but had been unable to name it. Possibly all mistook the bird for a male out of colour.

In the middle of September I saw one of my cock Tahas paying the bird a good deal of attention, and from this I imagined that my ideas as to sex must be wrong. Sure enough by the 17th of the month she had constructed a dome-shaped nest in some wild convolvulus, and had laid two eggs therein, which were white, lightly marked with faint red spots, large editions in fact of the Napoleon Weavers. She sat very steadily, the cock taking no notice of her whatever. On the 1st October a young one was hatched, I had removed one of the eggs for my collection. The hen fed steadily for five or six days, like all the other Weavers principally upon mealworms, which unfortunately, at this time, were hard to get. Whether I was too meagre with the supply, or whether my photographic efforts were too much for her I can't say, but on October 7th, I found the nest empty and my hopes of breeding an interesting hybrid dashed to the ground.

◆

My Malabar Mynahs.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

Before I speak of my present pair I had better describe their plumage, and give a few notes of them in their native haunts.

Adult Male: Above ashy-grey, suffused with rosy-brown on the upper back; wing-coverts blackish grey; flights black, edged with a purplish sheen; tail feathers blackish-grey, with ashy margins, and chestnut tips; feathers of head and neck rufous-brown, with ashy-grey centres; forehead, fore-crown, cheeks, chin, and upper throat hoary-white, tinged with ashy: lores and side of face rufous-brown; ear-coverts ashy; front of neck ruddy-brown with ashy-streaks; remainder of under parts bright cinnamon, bill blue at base, then greenish and yellow at tip: legs olive; iris of eye greyish white.

Adult Female: Similar in pattern to the male, with the various colour areas of a paler hue, less hoary-white about the head and greyer; legs dusky-yellow; iris white.

Young. In nestling plumage they are mostly grey, with a rosy tinge, lighter on the forehead, cheeks, chin, throat, and underparts; the abdomen very slightly tinged with rufous (the rufous tinge is very slight), flights and tail feathers blackish; bill pale greyish-yellow; legs greyish-brown; smaller than their parents, both as to length and bulk.

Habits and Range: It ranges over India, Burma, and Cochin China. From Hume, Oates, and Jerdon, we gather that it appears to prefer partly cleared country and an elevation of from 2,500 to 4,000 feet. It favours localities where the trees stand apart from each other. Its characteristics appear to be very Starling-like as would be expected. It feeds on fruit, berries and insects, It nests in holes in trees (dead or living), and if not satisfied with the entrance to the cavity it has chosen enlarges it to its liking. The favourite site is one difficult of access and usually 20ft to 50ft. above the ground. The bottom of the cavity is lined with fine twigs, bark, grass stems, roots, and leaves, the cup-like depression in which the eggs are deposited being very shallow, often not more than $\frac{1}{2}$in. deep. The clutch varies from three to four, and the colour of the eggs is very pale blue or green. The breeding season is May and June. It gathers in flocks of from 40 to 50 individuals and seeks its food about equally in trees and on the ground.

As will be seen from the following notes, its demeanour in confinement is very similar to that of its native wilds.

In Confinement: My pair, together with two young in adult plumage, came into my possession by our member Miss Baker asking me to give them a home, when bereavement compelled the dismantling of her aviary for a time. They have now have been in my possession about four years; and during this period have nested twice successfully, viz.:

in 1913, one young bird was fully reared, and again this season two young have been successfully reared. I have found them rather apt to desert their young when all but ready to leave the nest.

The Malabar Mynah is a delightful bird in a roomy aviary, and a decided ornament thereto. Their plumage is sufficiently contrasty to make them striking objects, and they have sufficient vivacity to keep them nearly always in the picture. In fact, they are incessantly on the move, yet all the period they have been with me, they have never bullied anything, not even a Waxbill. True, like all Starlings they cannot be said to possess a song, but they have voices! And well one knows it during any short period of excitement; I can hear them as I write this, but distance softens the sound. Their demeanour I need not unduly enlarge upon, as it is typically that of a Starling, but while without any particularly showy characteristics they are withal birds of interest and character.

As regards nesting, they invariably chose a small barrel, with a small hole, and as high up as they could get, merely gathering together therein a collection of grass, bents and feathers, the depression in the middle being little deeper than the thickness of the eggs. I always wondered how the eggs yield any result, for when one entered the aviary one always seemed to see the two birds together, yet invariably, whatever happened the eggs always did hatch out—all this made it impossible to tell when incubation began or ended, and often the first intimation one got of serious nesting was the hissing call of their callow young for food; later this "hissing call" developed into a petulant noisy cry of a chattering character. The eggs are almost Hedge-Sparrow-blue, but of a paler hue, a slight greenish tinge. Some might call them sea-green, with very few markings at the thick end; some eggs have no markings at all, and in none of the eggs I have examined have the markings been either numerous or pronounced. With these general notes of their nesting demeanour I will pass on to the actual success brought off during the season 1915.

In the early spring pairing took place, and practically every unoccupied barrel or log in the aviary, not less than 10ft. high was entered and examined, and all their energy seemed to be so spent. In no case did they look upon a barrel having a perch fixed at the entrance hole, but I saw them carry nesting material into each barrel, which Starling-intelligence declared to be suitable for a domicile. What feverish excitement the birds displayed while this was going on! What an amount of noisy for and against! What an amount of loud, clamouring scolding went on in the course of the day! It was when the latter ceased that I always suspected serious business had been begun. It was in early June that I received the first palpable evidence that serious effort had been made, which consisted of picking up three callow-young, several days old, under the bushes (neither voidings from the nest, nor dead nestlings are simply dropped out, they are always carried some distance from the nest receptacle and only dropped when the foliage obscures them from view). They had been fed—not a very encouraging beginning!

At the end of July this experience was repeated, save that the young birds were over a week old and beginning to feather, yet in neither case was I actually aware which barrel was Starling Castle.

At the beginning of August I noticed that the cock bird was always perched like a sentry on a barrel, 11ft. up, hanging against one of the aviary internal standards, and a little later I saw him taking food into it, evidently feeding his partner on the nest. But still I often went into the aviary and saw both of them fooling about, and did not expect any result, therefore it was with great surprise that a little later I heard the "hissing-call" of callow-young. Gradually the hissing ceased and gave place to a loud querulous chattering call, and I knew all was going well. Thus three weeks ran their course and then came a week of comparative silence, a silence which always precedes failure or final success. In this case the "Fates" were favourable and exactly twenty-four days after I first heard the "hissing call" two fine young birds left the nest, and are only just (September 16th) independent.

As regards food, the adults (the young also now) take milksop freely, also insectile mixture (containing a good dash of grocer's currants), ripe fruit, and live insects. The young were fed on live-food entirely for the first week, and, as mealworms were not plentiful, they had to do with wasps' grubs and gentles. It was amusing to watch them, when the live-food was thrown down; in a flash the Malabars were on the spot, and one of them never left it till the wants of their progeny were supplied; they made alternate journeys to the nest with food, thus alternately feeding their precious babies and standing guard over the live-food till they had satisfied their own and family's requirements; and all and sundry were welcome to the leavings! During the second and third weeks of their progeny's existence, ripe fruit, and milk sop was taken to them in gradually increasing quantity, and once the young had left the nest, the parent birds were willing to feed on whatever food was available, but I always decrease live-food gradually.

I have found this species quite hardy—the present is not my first experience with them, and I have always found them unaffected by the worst vagaries our winter inflicts upon them.

I have written at greater length than I intended, but have striven to avoid mere "packing," and trust I have succeeded, for space in "Bird Notes," is too precious for such indulgence.

I may add (December 27th), that both young are still living and have successfully moulted, but both are much darker than their parents, and have as yet only indications of the hoary grey of the fully adult bird.

◆

Psephotus Parrakeets at Liberty.

By the Marquis of Tavistock.

Two obstacles have always interfered with the success of my experiments with *Psephotus* Parrakeets, septic fever and Owls. The first of these might be overcome, or rather averted by rigorous measures of quarantine, but the second would be likely to trouble almost anyone who cared to risk his birds by following in my footsteps. This is unfortunate for if you except Blue-bonnets which have practically none of the manners of typical *Psephoti* (nor indeed *any* manners at all to boast of), there are no other Australian Parrakeets so attractive, so harmless, or so easy to start, and what is far more important, to keep, as the beautiful swift-flying members of this section of the *Platycercinae*. First get your birds into show-condition and properly paired up—not a difficult matter with ordinary care and attention—then release the cock on a fine still day and be sure that his mate remains in full view, in a place where he will not be afraid to visit her. Finally, a few days later let the hen go quietly out to join him. After that, provided you allow them a constant supply of seed, the pair will give no further trouble as long as they are both alive, and whether they are feeding on the lawn, or sunning themselves in a tree-top, or darting through the air with musical whistles, they will be a constant source of beauty and interest, strangely in harmony with their alien surroundings.

In giving an account of my experiences with *Psephotus* Parrakeets, I will begin with Red-rumps, as they are the the best known and the easiest to obtain.

RED-RUMPED PARRAKEET: (*P. haematonotus*): Being at that time quite inexperienced in the ways of Parrots, I treated the first four Red-rumps I ever got for turning out exactly as I should have treated so many Finches, viz.: kept them in an aviary with a dummy trap-tray for a few days and then released the lot full-winged. Three departed at once and were seen no more. The fourth, a cock, was less venturesome than his companions, and stayed, and in due course I procured him a mate. The pair lived happily in the garden for several months and in April nested in a small knot hole in the trunk of an oak tree—small, but alas! not too small to allow a squirrel to enter and slay the hen and her newly-hatched young. For a few days the disconsolate widower flew about calling: then he vanished, never to return. That is always the way with Red-rumps. Like other true *Psephoti* they are the best of stayers as long as they are in pairs, but once the cock has lost his mate you must either provide him with a substitute or be prepared to lose him within a few days. The substitute, it must be confessed, is accepted promptly and gladly, but yet there is something very touching about the little birds' devotion. The time of year makes no difference; only let him be deprived of the partner from whom, excepting when nesting, he was never for a moment separated, and neither the home which pleased him so well nor the food on which he is dependent, can keep him: a few days of unavailing search and fruitless calling, and then he starts on his last long journey, in quest of the missing one, a journey which in winter, at any rate, is ended by starvation and death—for Red-rumps, unlike the larger broadtails never learn to keep themselves entirely on natural food. A single hen *Psephotus* generally stays a little longer than a cock, but she, too, always goes in the end.

After the loss of my first pair, I tried several other Red-rumps but sooner or later a tragedy invariably occurred, sometimes when I seemed just about to achieve success.

Once a pair nested in a hole under the roof, but they were flooded out and the eggs spoiled. They tried again in a different place, but about the time the eggs were due to hatch, the cock contracted septic fever through feeding in an enclosure containing some diseased birds. His death caused the hen to desert her eggs, and by the time I had procured her a fresh mate, the moult had begun and all chances of breeding were over for the season. During the winter an Owl took the cock Red-Rump, and a successor met with the same fate. The thrice-widowed hen wandered far and wide in search of a companion and one day she never came back.

After so many failures I nearly decided to give up Red-rumps, but when a breeding pair were offered me some months later, I resolved to have one more try. The cock met with the usual end, and after his death the hen took up with a Many-coloured Parrakeet (*P. multicolor*) with whom she spent the winter. When Spring came round they nested, but without result, and, as in any case I did not want hybrids, I caught up the Red-rump and gave the Many-colour a mate of his own species. In the autumn I got a cock Red-rump and let the hen out with him, and this time both birds survived. A second pair I turned out were not so fortunate, as the hen killed herself by flying against a window, and her mate, an exceptionally fine bird, went away before we were able to catch him up or provide him with another wife. A few days before his departure I witnessed a rather amusing little scene at one of the feeding-trays. All three Red-rumps were sitting in a tree together and after a time the hen flew down to begin her meal, leaving her husband asleep above her. A moment afterwards she was joined by the odd cock, who was just beginning to think of making himself agreeable when No. 1 woke up, realised the situation, and hastily evicted his rival. Having driven him well away, he returned to to his wife, displayed to and then fed her; the amusing part was that he had been too lazy to bestow either of these little attentions upon her, since the early days of their courtship some months before; neither did he repeat them till some months later when she was about to nest. It was clear that he was only urged to these demonstrations of regard by the sudden fear that if he did not make himself extra nice to her, the lady's affections might be bestowed elsewhere! How faithfully the follies and weaknesses of mankind are sometimes reproduced in the bird creation!

In April the hen Red-rump established herself in a small hole in the branch of one of a clump of lime trees, which stood by themselves on the top of a hill. I expected the usual fiasco, but this time my fears were not realised, for although a Little Owl constantly visited the clump, he kindly refrained from repeating the crimes of his brethren.

At first the cock Red-rump came to feed alone, but after five weeks his mate began to accompany him more and more and more frequently as the family had less need of brooding. Then came a time (I suppose the young had just left the nest) when the old birds behaved in rather a curious way, coming and going independently of each other, but remaining on the best of terms on the few occasions when they happened to meet. After about ten days of this, two fine youngsters were seen following their parents. Very soon afterwards the hen went to nest a second time in the same hole and eventually reared a brood of four. The young Red-rumps were a pair and usually, though not always, to be seen together. The cock quickly tired of feeding them and drove them off if they got in his way, for Red-rumps, like Rosellas, do not believe in coddling their children. Barnard, Mealy Rosella and Adelaide fathers, on the other hand, are very meek and long-suffering, feeding their young long after the latter are well able to fend for themselves and submitting to a lot of worry from them while engaged in the care of a second brood.

MANY-COLOURED PARRAKEET (*P. multicolor*). I have have never been lucky with this species. When a number of these birds were imported a few years ago I turned four pairs with cut wings into a grass quadrangle in the centre of the house. This plan answers well enough with Blue-bonnets, but it is not to be recommended with the other *Psephoti*, and is far better to keep the birds until they are in thoroughly good trim and then release them in pairs, full-winged. Some of the Many-colours died of chills, others missed their mates and wandered when they were beginning to fly, and one hen died of cerebral hemorrhage after she had been at liberty several weeks. A pair, however, stayed well for a time, and even attempted to nest, but an Owl killed the female, and her mate strayed away in search of her. In the end I was left with a solitary cock, who paired with a Red-rump, as I have already related. He was a pretty little fellow and more than a match for any Parrakeet of his size in battle. I kept him nearly a year and grew very fond of him as he was quite tame, and was often to be seen running about the lawn in front of the stables, feeding on daisy and plantain leaves. The true *Psephoti* spend a lot of time on the ground when at liberty in this country, much preferring short turf to long seeding grass, a preference which is shared by Australian Finches, when kept under similar conditions. The large Broadtails, however, comparatively seldom leave the trees, unless perhaps during the breeding season, when the cocks have to eat a lot of greenstuff to supply their growing families. One day in late June when the weather was bright and warm, and the sweetest and juiciest of natural food everywhere in abundance, the Many-colour was picked up paralyzed in both legs and died a short time later. He proved to be suffering from cerebal hemorrhage. Old writers tell us that *P. multicolor* is so subject to this disease that it is almost useless to attempt to keep it. I certainly would not endorse this statement, as I have had quite a lot of Many-colours at different times, and have only lost two from the ailment in question. Still, it is rather strange that both of these should have succumbed when flying *at complete liberty*! There is another disease to which Many-colours are distressingly liable, viz.: septic fever; they sometimes contract it in the most unexpected fashion.

After my failure with birds at liberty I put a pair of Many-colours into a big, clean, new aviary, of which they were the first and only occupants. They did well for some weeks; then the cock died suddenly of septic fever—no other birds were lost at the time. I got another cock and tried the pair in a small indoor aviary kept scrupulously clean; again septic fever carried off the male bird, but the hen strangely enough survived.

HOODED PARRAKEETS (*P. [cucullatus] dissimilis.* I have had for several years. They are a little delicate on first arrival and need to be kept warm, and free from draughts and sudden changes of temperature. Among a lot of newly-imported young birds there are generally a certain proportion unable to fly well: these it is almost useless to buy, even though they are plump and lively. The long journey and the hardships they have undergone seem to have fatally injured their vitality, and, though they may live for a year or more, they will never become good birds, and will probably end by becoming deplorable objects, with scarcely a feather on them—not because they pluck their plumage, but because they have not strength to renew it during the process of the moult. Hooded Parrakeets seldom suffer from disease, but the hens are exceedingly liable to become egg-bound, the danger being increased by the persistency with which they cling to the Australian breeding season—October. Not one hen Hooded in ten can successfully lay her full clutch at a temperature below 60 degrees—anyhow in captivity—and the danger of egg-binding is not, in my experience, materially decreased by allowing a bird full liberty. In spite of the uncompromising behaviour of P. *dissimilis (cucullatus)*, I do not think it is at all fair to say that Australian birds, generally, are troublesome about breeding at the wrong time of year. As a rule they are extraordinarily ready to adapt themselves to our seasons, and the Emu is the only other inveterate offender I have met with in the matter of winter nesting.

The majority of our first consignment of Hoodeds were, I regret to say, lost owing to our ignorance of the proper treatment of newly imported Parrakeets, and out of the original seven only two cocks survived the first three months. These, however, did well, and agreed perfectly together even when in breeding condition, thus showing that cock *Psephoti*, like the cock *Platycerci*, can remain on good terms so long as there is no hen with them. In October I exchanged one of the male birds for a female. She nested very soon after she came, and, as I omitted to heat the aviary sufficiently, died egg-bound after laying three eggs.

A year later I kept another pair of Hoodeds in an outdoor aviary, which was very sheltered, but dark and sunless. Again the hen nested in the autumn and she died in laying her sixth and last egg. The cock passed the winter without artificial heat in the company of another hen which I did not allow to breed during the cold weather. She laid five eggs late in the following summer, but failed to hatch them.

To be concluded.

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Birds in and about the Station.

BY MAJOR G. A. PERREAU, F.Z.S.

THE INDIAN PARADISE FLYCATCHER (*Continued from Vol. VI., page* 339).

I rather think that the plumage has been described in "Bird Notes" before, but an abbreviated, and I fear, rather mutilated description from Oates may not be out of place. Young birds and females have the crest, top of head, and nape metallic blue-black; the throat and sides of the head and neck ashy-brown; breast pale ashy; the rest of the lower plumage white the remainder of the upper plumage chestnut. At second autumn moult the whole head becomes glossy black and the middle pair of tail feathers grow to a great length, these are cast in May or June. At third autumn moult the whole lower plumage becomes pure white and the long chestnut tail feathers are grown again and retained. At the fourth autumn moult the bird is adult; head, crest and neck, are metallic blue-black, the rest of the plumage white, most of the feathers of upper plumage are black shafted, the wing feathers have black near the shaft. The middle pair of tail feathers are greatly elongated, and fall in a graceful curve when the bird is at rest. The bill, gape, and margin of eyelids are cobalt-blue, bill darker at the tip. All the above except where otherwise mentioned applies to cocks. Length from 9 to 21 inches, tail from 4½ to 16½ inches. I have seen a white cock without his long tail as early as mid-August; this is exceptional, but all lose their tails before they leave us. Not having seen the birds in winter, I do not know whether their tails grow again at once or at the advent of spring.

THE YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER (*Chelidorhynx hypoxanthum*) is called a Fantail by Jerdon and it seems a pity to have dropped this name, as it is descriptive. According to Blandford it is usually seen in small flocks hunting about trees. I have only seen it in single pairs in early spring at not less than 5,000 feet. It frequents trees, making short sallies into the air in true Flycatcher fashion, but after settling twists and turns in true Fantail fashion. It does not do nearly so much running along branches as the bush-loving Fantail (*Rhipidura*) but is very nearly as restless and cheery. It has the advantage of being far more brightly coloured. Also if one can take a native's word (I fear I don't as a rule, as regards birds) it ought to be easier to meat off. I was trapping near Dalhousie in February (not this year) about a mile from camp when I caught one of a pair. I wanted the other, so kept my first capture with me to give me a hand. As an assistant catcher it was a fraud, as its partner took no interest in its whereabouts, but it gave me an interesting morning. It took broken mealworms at once, which rather surprised me, as it is decidedly one of those "hairy-nosed cusses" and seemed to be even tackling the soft food. However as its quarters were rather cramped even for a small newly-caught bird, and as I wanted to stay out I sent him into camp with my man with full instructions as to treatment. Later on I caught the other and sent that up by a coolie. My man was out getting milk or something, and the coolie tried to put it in, apparently did not shut the door, and both birds got away. My man swears the first bird was eating soft food and I was almost inclined to believe him in this case. The bird had been caught in a tree spring net trap, lured by a mealworm, and it was ravenous. It was snowing when I pitched my camp, which, by the way was not a pretentious affair, a bivouac tent for myself and a disused cowshed for the birds, my bird-man, and a servant. Coolies I picked up from a village fairly near, the headmen of which were only too ready to come up in the evening to chat with the mad sahib and drink his whiskey and ginger-wine. It was a most enjoyable three days trip. I did not catch so very many birds, but what I got lived well and gave no anxiety. There were no casualties (at any rate from feeding) even among Red-headed Tits, birds with which I had previously experienced the greatest difficulty in meating off. What these Fantail Flycatchers existed on up there at that time of year I do not know. In the afternoon when the sun came out my second capture (not then caught) seemed to be getting a certain amount of small insects over a small stream, but there had been precious little sun for three days before. My second capture was made in a flue net, a mealworm quite failing to tempt it, or else the fate of its partner had made it wary. I've not had a chance since of catching this bird; they are not common, and trapping trips are still rarer, if one leaves out single days.

Colouration: Forehead and broad supercilium and whole lower plumage bright yellow, upper-parts brown and olive-brown, the feathers of the greater-coverts and the tail (except the middle pair) have white tips, the tail feathers are white shafted. When seen from above and on the wing the white tips are very conspicuous. Length about 4.7, tail 2.3 inches.

(*To be continued*).

The Endurance of Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

Over two years ago I promised several prominent members of F.B.C. to write a paper on this topic, and also to give a list of such species as I had kept out of doors with success. Moreover, I promised Dr. Amsler when I asked him for the result of his experiences in out-door bird-keeping (Vol. V., N.S., p. 358) that I would supplement it with my own later — I have rather shrunk from doing so, as I acutely feel my incompetence for the task, yet it has always been a pet fad of mine, and in the early days of my bird-keeping it was, as it is, with so many others, a case of keeping them out of doors or not at all; but, if the members generally will respond and give their experiences, much valuable *data* should result. I propose to give a list first, and leave notes till afterwards, as this article must perforce run into several instalments. All in the list that are unqualified by any sign against them, save the one which indicates successful breeding, I personally consider absolutely hardy under the conditions I have kept them, which will be clearly stated later.

The localities covered by these experiences are: the environs of Birmingham; various districts of London, and Mitcham.

* Have successfully reared young in my aviaries.

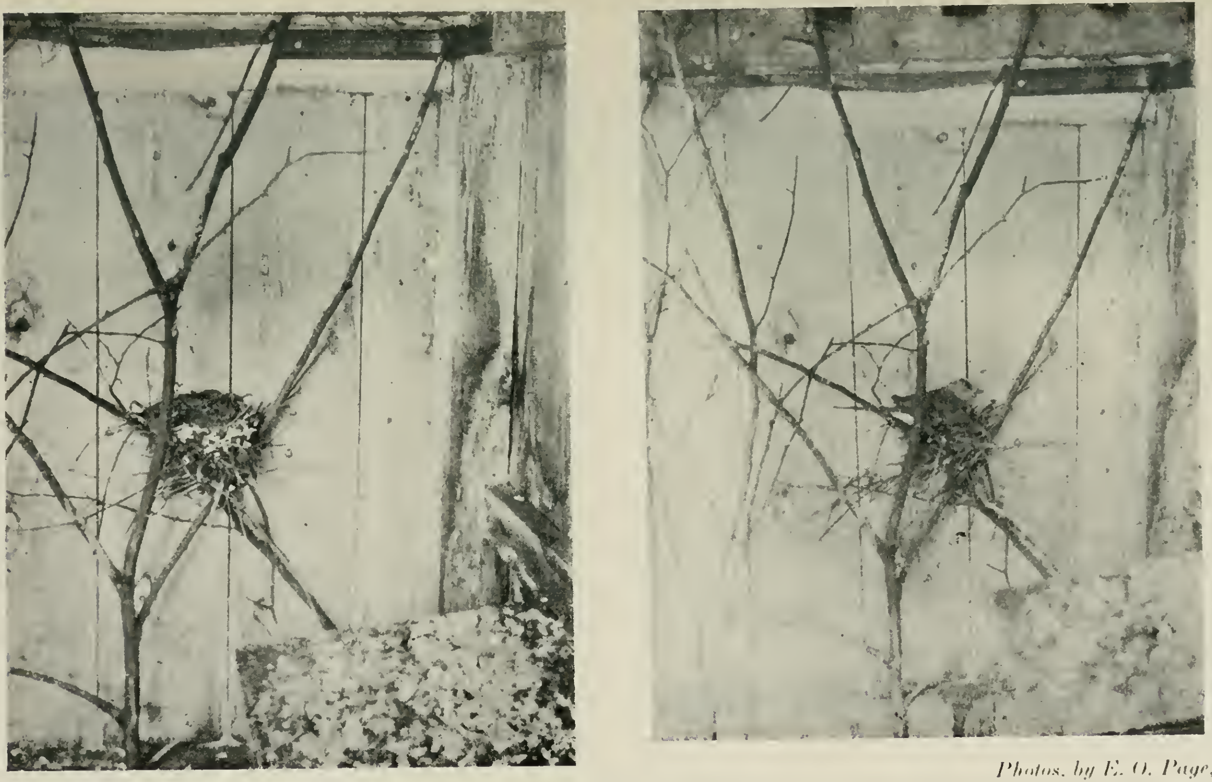
□ Are best kept in an aviary which permits of them being driven in at night and during periods of inclement weather.

† Are best taken indoors for the winter months.

‡ Have made no attempt to keep these outside during the winter.

Accentor. *European.
,, *Jerdon's
Avadavat. *Common (Red).
,, *Green.
Bengalese.*
Blackbird *European.
,, Red-winged.
Blackcap□
Black-headed Sibia.
Brambling.
Budgerigar*
Bulbul Him. Black,
,, Red-eared.
,, Red-vented.
,, White-cheeked.
,, White-eared.
Bullfinch. Desert.
,, *European.
Bullfinch, Rosy-winged Afghan.
Bunting. Black-headed.
,, Chinese.
,, Cirl.
,, Corn.
,, □Hair-crested.
,, Indigo.
,, Lapland.
,, Meadow.
,, Nonpareil.
,, □Rainbow.
,, Red-headed.
,, Reed.
,, Ruddy.
,, Snow.
,, Yellow.
,, ,, -breasted.
Cape Canary.

Cardinal. *Green.
,, Pope.
,, *Red-crested.
,, Virginian.
,, □Yellow-billed.
Chaffinch. European.
,, Madeiran
Cockateel*
Combasou.
,, □Long-tailed.
Conure. Black-headed.
,, Cactus.
,, Golden-crowned.
,, Half-moon.
,, Jendaya.
,, White-eared.
Cordon Bleu*□
Cow-Bird, Bay-winged.
,, ,, Silky
Cutthroat*
Dhayal Bird□
Dove. Aurita.
,, *Aust. Crested.
,, *Barbary Turtle.
,, Bar-shouldered.
,, Bronze-necked.
,, *Bronze-winged.
,, □Cape (Masked).
,, *Diamond.
,, *Dwarf Ground.
,, *European Turtle.
,, *Green-winged (Ind.)
,, *Half-collared Turtle.
,, *Jamaican Pea.
,, Necklace.
,, *Partridge (Red Ground).
,, *Passerine.
,, *Peaceful.
,, *Picui (steel-barred).
,, Plumed Ground.
,, Scaly.
,, *Senegal Turtle.
,, *Talpocoti.
,, Vinaceous Turtle.
,, White-winged.
,, *Zebra.
Euphonia. †Blue-headed.
,, †Dwarf.
,, †Jamaican.
,, †Violet.
Finch. *Alario.
,, □Aurora
,, †Bar-breasted Fire,-,
,, *Bib.
,, □Bicheno's.
,, □Black-faced Quail.
,, Black-headed Lined.
,, Bluish.
,, Cherry.
,, *Chestnut-breasted.
Finch, Crimson.
,, *Cuban.
,, *Diamond.
,, Diuca.
,, □Dufresne's.
,, *Fire-,
,, □Fire-red.
,, □Gold-fronted.
,, *Gouldian
,, *Green Singing.
,, *Grey.
,, *Grey Singing.
,, *Guttural.
,, Heck's L.T. Grass-.
,, *Jacarini.
,, □Lavender.
,, □Lavender-backed.
,, □Lined.
,, *Long-tailed Grass-,
,, Masked Grass-
,, □Melba.
,, *Olive.
,, □Painted.
,, Parrot.
,, *Parson.
,, □Parva.
,, Pectoral.
,, *Pelzeln's Saffron
,, Pileated.
,, □Pintailed Parrot
,, Plumbeous.
,, □Quail.
,, □Reddish.
,, *Red-headed.
,, □Ringed.
,, *Ruficauda.
,, *Saffron.
,, *Scaly-crowned
,, Sharp-tailed.
,, Snow.
,, *Spice.
,, Striated.
,, White-throated.
,, *Yellowish.
,, Yellow-rumped.
,, *Zebra.
Flycatcher. □Red-breasted.
,, □Tickell's Blue.
Fruitsucker. Gold-fronted.
Goldfinch. *European.
,, Himalayan.
Grackle. Purple.
Greenfinch. *European.
,, Himalayan.
Grosbeak. Blue.
,, Thick-billed.
Hangnest. □Brazilian.
,, □Common.
,, □Yellow (Golden).
Ixulus. □Yellow-naped.



Photos. by E. O. Page,

Nest and Young of Diamond Dove, to illustrate the site they prefer in the absence of natural cover, also the fragility of the nest and its small size, which is probably the cause of so many of the young leaving the nest, or falling out, in a helpless condition, yet most are fully reared.

Hawfinch.
Honey-eater. □Garrulous.
,, ,, □Sombre.
Jay. ‡Pileated.
Lark. □Ind. Calandra.
,, Shore.
,, Sky.
Linnet. *European.
,, □Himalayan.
Lorikeet. Red-collared.
,, Scaly-breasted.
,, Swainson's
,, Varied.
Lory. Chattering.
,, Purple-capped.
Lovebird. *Black-cheeked.
,, Blue-winged.
,, *Madagascar.
,, Peach-faced.
,, Red-headed.
Mannikin. Black-headed.
,, *Bronze.
,, *Magpie.
,, Rufous-backed.
,, Tricolour.
,, White-headed.
Marsh-Bird □Flame-breasted.
Mesia. □Silver-eared.
Minivet. ‡Short-billed.
Mocking-Bird Common.
Mynah. Andaman.
,, Common.
,, *Malabar
,, □Pied.
Ouzel Grey-headed.
,, *Grey-winged.
Parrakeet. Adelaide.
,, Alexandrinae.
,, All-Green.
,, Banded.
,, Blossom-headed
,, Canary-winged.
,, Half-moon.
,, Jendaya.
,, Many-coloured.
,, Pennant's.
,, Quaker.
,, *Red-rumped.
,, Ring-necked.
,, *Rosella.
,, Tovi.
,, Tui.
,, Turquoisine.
Parrot. ‡Blue-fronted Amazon.
,, ‡Grey.
,, Hawk-headed.
,, Senegal.
Pastor. Rosy.
Pie. ‡Wandering Tree-,
Quail. *Argoondah.
,, Black-breasted Button.
,, *Californian.
,, *Chinese Painted.
,, Common.
,, *Harlequin.
,, Jungle Bush.
,, Little Button.
,, Rain.
Quit. ‡Banana.
Redpoll. *Lesser.
,, Mealy.
Redstart. ‡European.
,, Plumbeous.
Robin. *Blue.
,, European.
,, *Pekin.
Rosefinch. *Mexican.
,, Pink-browed
,, Scarlet.
Seedeater, St. Helena.
,, Sulphury.
Serin.
,, White-throated.
,, *Yellow-rumped.
Shama□
Silverbill. *African.
,, *Indian.
Siskin. American.
,, Black-headed.
,, *European.
,, *Hooded.
Siva. □Blue-winged.
Song-Sparrow, Chingolo.
,, ,, Pileated.
Sparrow. *Abyss. Yellow.
,, Cape.
,, Cinnamon Tree.
,, *Grey Java.
,, *House.
,, □Swainson's.
,, *Tree.
,, *White Java.
,, Yellow-throated.
Starling. European.
,, Glossy.
Sugarbird. †Blue.
,, †Purple.
,, †Yellow-winged.
Sunbird. ‡Amethyst-rumped.
,, ‡Purple.
Tanager. Archbishop.
,, *Black.
,, ‡Black-cheeked.
,, Blue.
,, Crimson-crowned.
,, Magpie.
,, Palm.
,, Scarlet.

Tanager, □Superb.
,, □Tricolour.
Thrush. *European.
,, Migratory.
,, Rock.
,, Spectacled.
,, Streaked Laughing.
,, Variegated Laughing.
Tit.. Blue.
,, Cole.
,, Great.
,, □Green-backed.
,, Marsh.
Toucan. ‡Green-billed.
,, ‡Sulphur-breasted.
Toucanette‡.
Troupial. □Flame-shouldered.
,, □Military.
Tit Blue.
Twite.
Tyrant. ‡Sulphury.
Wagtail. Pied.
Waxbill. □Blue-breasted.
,, *Gold-breasted.
,, Grey.
,, *Orange-cheeked.
,, *St. Helena.
,, □Sydney.
Waxwing.
Weaver. Abyssinian.
,, Baya.
Weaver, Black-faced.
,, ,, -fronted.
,, ,, -headed.
,, Comoro.
,, Crimson-crowned.
,, Golden.
,, Grenadier.
,, Half-masked.
,, Madagascar.
,, Masked.
,, *Napoleon.
,, Orange.
,, *Red-billed.
,, ,, -headed.
,, Rufous-necked.
,, Russ'
,, Short-winged.
,, Speke's.
,, Taha.
,, Yellow.
,, Yellowish.
White-eye. ‡African.
,, □*Indian.
Whydah. □Crimson-ringed.
,, □Giant.
,, □Jackson's.
,, □Paradise.
,, □Pin-tailed.
,, □Red-collared.
,, □Yellow-backed.
,, □White-winged.

I have made no attempt to give a complete list of species which I have kept, as some were kept under conditions which preclude them from a place in this list.

(*To be continued*).

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Editorial.

Sexing Occipital Blue-Pies: Mr. B. T. Stewart informs us that the difference in the sexes does not consist in the orange shade of the female's beak. This distinction only holds good in the breeding season, at all other periods her beak is blood-red—most intense in hue. Her beak is different in shape from that of the male, broader at the base and more pointed at tip.

Lavender Finch (*Lagonosticta caerulesceus*). This species is not remarkable for long life in confinement, but this is not always the case, neither does it always prove so fragile as it is often with good cause reputed to be. We saw in a well sheltered, but unheated Surrey aviary in 1914, two pairs which had been out of doors all the year round for three years and they were in exhibition condition, when we saw them one Eastertide. Our member, Mr. G. E. Haggie (Oxford) writes (Dec. 31st) that he has just lost his last Lavender Finch which had been with him just seven years; it had lived out of doors all the year round for the whole period. Mr. Haggie's aviary is only of medium size, unheated but warm and well sheltered (described and illustraded in Vols. II. N.S., pp. 248-9, and V., pp. 360-4): This particular bird had mated with an Orange-cheeked Waxbill, and several times young have been hatched out, which unfortunately have only lived a few days.

The Prospect: Considering "the times," this is excellent, for we have new adherents monthly, and these additions have been sufficient, so far, to make good the losses of those who remain dormant for the duration of the war, and also for those who have fallen; it is only needful for us to catch the spirit of those in the firing line who still remain in active membership and desire that as far as possible "Bird Notes" should be fully maintained as heretofore, and to help the funds as well as keeping our collections, probably smaller than in pre-war days, going, for all our hopes and aspirations to be realised. Even in these war times we ask all to send a little help to the deficit fund, as what economies we may be able to effect will, very probably be swallowed up by the extra cost of production. We can, however, only keep up the interest and quality of "B.N." by ALL those who remain at home helping the Editor by writing articles and sending photos of things avicultural. We feel assured all will help to their utmost in this respect; it is surely a happy augury that we commence the year by adding to our membership, and we hope each month there will be several new members elected. It is not necessary to lengthen out these remarks, space is too precious. The future is in our hands, it will be what we make it: failure, if everything is left to the officials of the club; certain success, if each member realises his or her part and responsibility in the club's progress and welfare, and all do their best to fulfil it.

The Talebearers.

When I was young the would-be wit.
Would quote the story of Tell Tale Tit.
And as I get older, "where'er I roam,"
The birds still tell me stories of home.

This Swallow in Egypt (I have no proof,
But I think he has built in the eaves of our roof),
When I meet him from England winging his way,
"The Summer is over," I hear him say,
"The Virginia creeper is turning red,
The roses are done in your own rose bed."

When you get to the East and leave your boat,
A thought of home brings a lump to your throat;
A little cock Sparrow so cheeky and brown,
So like his cousins in London Town,
Who. takes your thoughts on Fancy's wings
Straight home to English birds and things.

Returning in Springtime chill and cold,
We are followed by messengers small and bold.
They pay no passage and give no tips
As they journey a day or two on our ships.
And no one would ask them for anything
But the cheering message they bring of Spring.
They rest on our boat with no thought of fear,
And the message they bring is "Summer is near."
"Cheer up, you passengers chilly and sad,
The English summer will make you glad,
So swiftly now on our way we wing
Back to England, to greet the Spring."
And we, too, must often move and go,
From East to West, we are to and fro;
Our wandering spirit has made our fate;
We too, like the birds, must oft migrate.

The Indian birds come down to Ceylon
And bring us word the cold weather has gone,
Saying: "Your damper heat is better to bear
Than the blazing, stifling heat up there."
And when to India back they go,
They've got another tale you know.
It's not the place to build your nests,
With mildew and damp and other pests;
And India in dry and warm springtime
Is really a nesting place divine."

In England I laugh at the little farce
As I bow when ill-omened Magpies pass;
So I bow again with a smile and a sigh
In India to the brown Tree-pie,
Fearing ill luck may strike to-day
Loved ones in England far away.
And smiling, that habit keeps me true
To what in childhood I used to do,
There's a little qualm that is hardly fear,
For their message is "Trouble is always near."

But the Robin in Autumn who sings to me,
Or the White-eye in the Mango tree,
The message they bring has a mighty power,
"Be glad like us in the Sunny hour;
In the happy hours be grateful and glad,
And the sad hours will never seem so bad."

They are everywhere with us, that messenger band,
With a tale just for those who understand.

October, 1915 —M. N. de FRIVILLE

◆

Correspondence.

THE HEN OF THE JAPANESE HAWFINCH (*Eophona personata*).

Sir,—In my article on this species, which appeared in "Bird Notes," January 1915, page 14), I stated "the hen of the Japanese species, I understand has no black on the head, in which it agrees with its relative" This inference I drew from Bartlett and Gould in their books in which certain asiatic birds were described. Finding later that the sexed skins in the Museum were much alike, and learning also that birds had attempted to nest, I ascertained the Japanese name and wrote to the Tokyo Museum, and the Curator kindly informed me that both male and female have the top of the head, circle round eyes, and fore-throat black; so that apparently, except for the fact that the wing pattern is hardly so distinct in the hen and according to Miss A. B. Smyth the bill of the hen remains discoloured (not clear yellow) most of the year, they are much alike in general appearance. The bird in its native country is called Ikaru or Ikarauga.

ALLEN SILVER.

Forest Hill, S.E., Dec. 6, 1915.

◆

Post-Mortem Reports.

Crowned Tanager (♂). (Lady Kathleen Pilkington, Wakefield). The cause of death was acute fatty degeneration of the liver.

Diamond Dove (♀). (Miss Katherine Webb, Cambridge). The cause of death was acute congestion of the oviduct. When these birds are ill, keep them in a high temperature of 80 degrees or more and give them a pill of calomel, $\frac{1}{2}$ grain, and grey powder $\frac{1}{2}$ grain morning and evening.

Red-faced Lovebird (♀). (Mrs. E. G. Davies, Warrington. Cause of death was enteritis. These birds require to be kept in an equable temperature during the chilly months of the year. They are very delicate.

Pileated Finch (♂). (Mrs. Burgess, Bristol). The cause of death was anaemia, resulting from a difficult moult or rather the condition giving rise to a difficulty in moulting. Fits or convulsions frequently end the life of birds. Iron wine (*vinum ferri*) on spongecake is the best tonic in this complaint. Warmth of a high degree acts very beneficially. Forcing medicaments down the throat of small birds does more harm than good.

Moustache Parrakeet. (Miss E. M. Baker, Swinton, Yorks). The cause of death was pneumonia, which often arises during a journey.

Avadavat (♂). (G. E. Haggie). The cause of death was pneumonia which is the bane of bird-keeping.

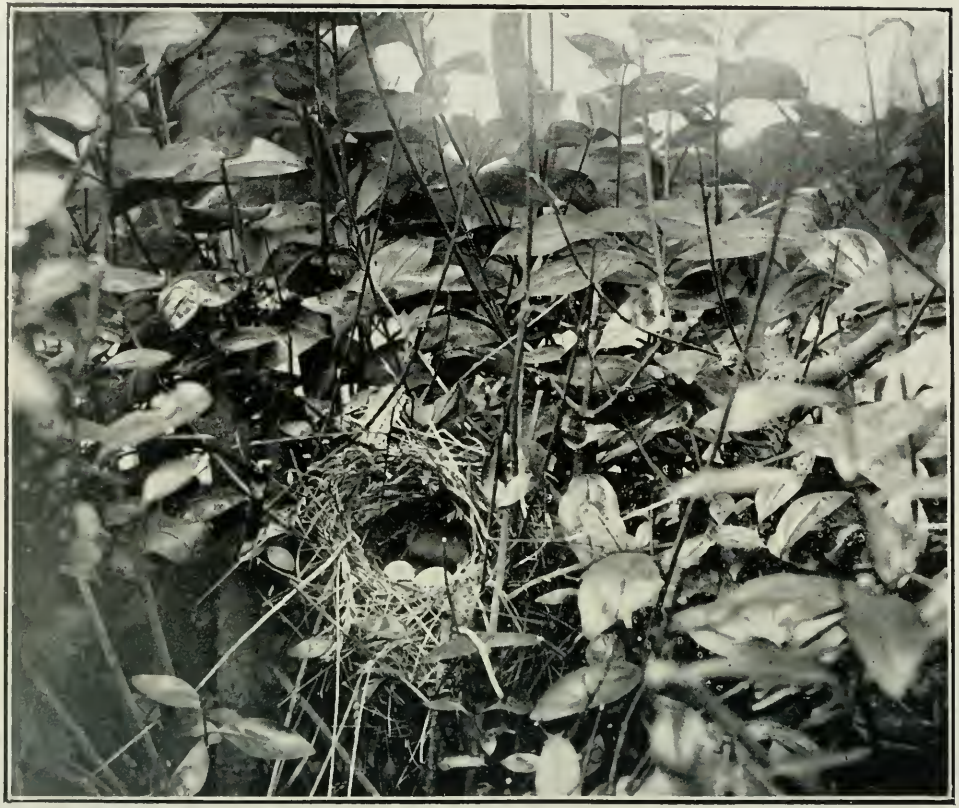
Gouldian Finch (♀). (Mrs. A. Storey, Cheshire). The cause of death was pneumonia. The condition of the beak was due to the mange-mite of birds, the *Sarcoptes minor*, which is not rare in highly coloured plumage birds, especially the Gouldian Finch. In poultry and game-birds, this parasite causes "scaly-leg," which is one of the Sarcoptic manges of birds. Painting on the part, by means of a fine camel-hair pencil, paraffin every third day would cause the disease to disappear.

Hanging Parrakeet (♂). (B. T. Stewart, Radlett. The cause of death was enlargement of the liver.

Indian Mynah (♂). (E. R. Phillips, Dublin). The cause of death was chronic enteritis, no doubt due to the chilly dampness.

Answered by post:—Lady Yule; Mrs. Burgess.

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.



Nest and Eggs of Orange Weaver. *Photo W. Shore Baily*

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

The Breeding Season 1915, in Boyers House Aviaries.

BY W. SHORE BAILY.

In spite of the fact that owing to the war I was unable to give my birds as much attention as usual, the breeding season with me was by no means a bad one. The most noticeable events have already been recorded in "Bird Notes," but a few notes with regard to the others may be of interest. The following young birds left the nest:

11 Rosella Parrakeets (*Platycercus eximius*).
2 Rosella Parrakeet Hybrids.
2 Alexandrine Parrakeets (*Palaeornis nepalensis*).
1 Black-cheeked Lovebird (*Agapornis nigricollis*).
5 Madagascar Lovebirds (*A. cana*).
3 Brown-eared Conures (*Conurus ocularis*).
2 Napoleon Weavers (*Pyromelana afra*).
4 Taha Weavers (*P. taha*).
1 Half-masked Weaver (*Hyphantornis vitellinus*).
4 Spice Finch × Bengalese Hybrids.
4 Saffron Finches (*Sycalis flaveola*).
8 Bronze-wing Doves (*Phaps chalcoptera*).
1 Brush Bronze-wing Dove (*P. elegans*).
8 Necklace Doves (*Turtur tigrinus*).
4 Necklace × Senegal Dove Hybrids.
3 Diamond Doves (*Geopelia cuneata*).
2 Red-collared Whydahs (*Penthetria ardens*).
2 Sulphury Seedeaters (*Serinus sulphuratus*).
5 Black Seed-Finches (*Melopyrrha nigra*).
4 Yellow Sparrows (*Passer luteus*).
2 Chinese Greenfinches (*Chloris sinica*).
14 Zebra Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*).

Some few of these fell victims to the pugnacity of other inmates of their aviaries, while others fell victims to that still more insiduous foe pneumonia. Still a large proportion are still living and doing well.

PARROTS: Of these, the Rosella Parrakeets, were the most successful, fully rearing two broods of six and five respectively. A cross-mated pair of Red and Mealy Rosellas also reared a fine pair of young ones, which were much larger than pure bred birds at the same age. In colour they were much paler than young Rosellas; unfortunately I lost them both from pneumonia.

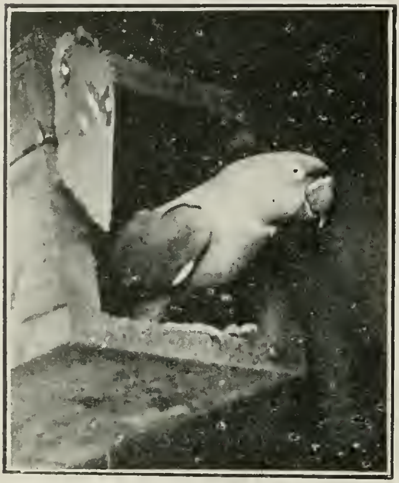

Photo by W. Shore Baily.
Alexandrine Parrakeet.

The Alexandrines --our illustration figures one of them at the mouth of their "Banjo-nest box" although they nested twice, only reared two young ones, but these were very fine specimens. In December the hen again went to nest, and at time of penning these notes is incubating a clutch of eggs. The story of the nesting of the Brown-eared Conures has already been told in "B.N." I sold them all to a well known dealer about the middle of September, to find, after the birds were gone, that the hen had commenced laying again, so I lost a chance here of a second brood.

The Black-cheeked Lovebirds were a failure; only one young bird left the nest, and this was killed by a Quaker Parrakeet, who also accounted for the adult hen.

My Madagascar Lovebirds nested four times, five young ones being fully reared.

I was disappointed in my Speckled Conures (*C. euops*); they took possession of a nest box, but although I saw them pair on more than one occasion, no eggs were laid.

Petz's Conures, Canary-wing, and Tui Parrakeets made no attempt whatever at nesting. The Tuis however, roosted every night in a log.

The Red-faced Lovebirds (*A pullaria*) occupied a nesting box early in December, and at the time of writing are incubating a clutch of eggs.

A Madagascar Lovebird (♀) mated with a cock Red-face, and they nested twice, but the eggs on both occasions were infertile.

DOVES: These have been very irregular in their breeding operations, some doing well, others very badly. The Bronze-wings were among the most successful, as they fully reared eight, really strong, youngsters. The Brush Bronze-wings, on the other hand were almost a failure, as, though they nested quite as frequently as *Phaps chalcoptera* they only reared one young one, and this has since died. I think, however, that their failure was partly due to the interference of other birds. The Conures were especially mischievous in this way.

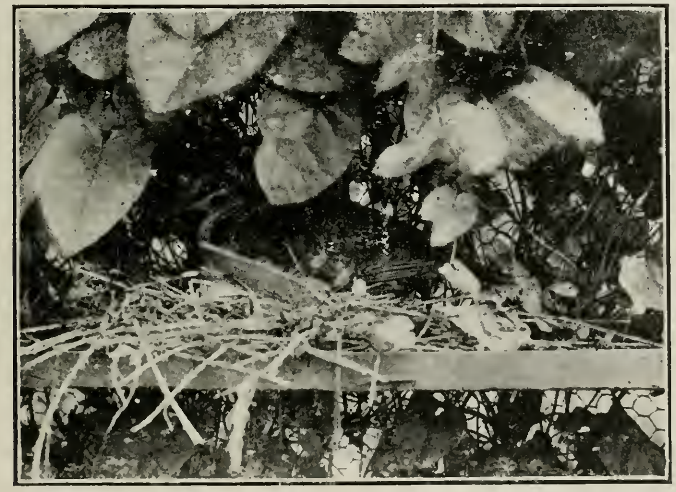

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Brush Bronze-wing Dove.

(*To be concluded*).

Some Observations on the Nesting and Rearing of Landrails in Captivity.

By Gerald E. Rattigan.

Though this species has been apparently successfully reared before, in a cage, I believe, no details concerning the episode appear to have been recorded, and in any event would hardly be of the same interest under such conditions as a record of their breeding under the semi-natural conditions of a fair-sized and naturally planted aviary. I think, therefore, the following record may be of some interest.

I obtained my pair of Landrails from Ireland about the end of May, 1914.

The birds reached me in excellent condition and seemingly none the worse for their long journey. They were pleasingly tame and in a very short time became even more so the cock, which was always the tamest of the two, soon learning to take tit-bits out of my fingers without the least concern. In short, they soon obtained and kept the position of first favourities in my aviary.

In that year (1914) the first signs of nesting were noted on July 2nd, when I observed the cock carrying bits of dry grass, etc., to the hen, as a gentle hint, I presume, that the time had arrived to take up the responsibilities of married life and commence providing for the future generation.

The hen, however, seemed to consider that there was no need for haste and taking his offerings from him, proceeded to contemptuously throw them away.

For a few days previous to this incident, the cock had been making day and night, especially night, hideous with his raucous rasping call "or song"? which has been compared to the noise made by a scythe on a whetstone, not untruly, save that it is a bit of a libel on the latter. I readily admit that about this time serious thoughts of murder and sudden death entered my head.

A Landrail in "full song" throughout the entire hot and breathless night of a hot and breezeless July, is a trial, before which, Job himself might have been reasonably expected to quail. In the stillness of such a night, I do not believe, that there is anything on earth that can equal the nerve racking monotony of this awful "creek craik" "creek-craik" repeated *ad infinitum* without pause or break or the remotest variation, except in the volume and direction of the sound, which advances and recedes, in fact appears to come from all points of the compass. These ventriloquial powers, which appear to be especially pronounced at night, are apt to cause one, as they often did me at first, to imagine that the bird has in some way or other managed to escape or that a wild bird is around answering the cries of the one in the aviary. . Often whilst standing at my bedroom window in the evening, I would have cheerfully laid any odds that the bird was on the lawn within, at the most, ten or fifteen yards of the window, whereas, in reality, the aviary from which it was serenading all and sundry, was situated from eighty to one-hundred yards away at the end of a paddock. From my further experiences of these birds this summer (1915), however, I rather fancy the cock I possessed before must have been a sort of combined Caruso and Arthur Prince amongst his fellows, and by no means a normal performer.

To resume the chronicle of nesting results last (1914) season, it was not until August 6th that I discovered the nest containing two eggs, most cunningly concealed under a tuft of grass. The nest itself is a very primitive affair just a few bits of dried grass roughly lining a natural hollow in the ground.

I felt sure they had a nest somewhere and was engaged in searching for it, but had almost given up the search when in lifting up an overhanging tussock of grass, I almost put my hand on the hen, which was sitting like a stone.

On visiting the nest again on the 12th I found it deserted and one egg had been devoured, save for a bit of the shell, by field mice, by which creatures I was much pestered that year. I caught the culprit a few days later in an ordinary wooden mouse trap, which I set for him on the site of his depredations. He proved to be a monstrous mouse, hardly to be wondered at considering the sumptuous manner in which he and his mates had been faring at my expense, and could hardly squeeze his body into the trap.

I placed the remaining egg under a Silkie Bantam, but it disappeared during the night a few days later, probably annexed by a rat. Thus ended in failure my first attempt to breed these birds, for though I am pretty sure they nested again after this, no eggs were discovered and no young hatched so far as I know.

This season (1915), which brought happier results, commenced disastrously, for on March 8th, soon after arriving at my new house in Gloucestershire, a stray dog broke into the aviary during the night and murdered my cock Landrail.

I was in despair for there seemed but little likelihood of my being able to replace him at any rate that season. For once in a way, however, fortune smiled upon me. A man wrote me from Scotland on May 15th that some boys had captured a Landrail which they had heard calling in a field, and would I like it? A wire dispatched instanter answered in the affirmative. On arrival the bird proved to be a very fine young cock, wonderfully tame, considering that it had only been captured two or three days previously. It fed at first solely on earth-worms, and such other "small game" as I could procure it, but in a few days, inspired no doubt by the example of the hen, it began to sample the "soft-food" and seed, and from then on never looked back. It was terribly thin on arrival, but a fortnight later, when I turned it out into my aviary (till then I had kept it in a large conservatory adjoining the house), it was as fat as the proverbial lark..

I heard the cock "craiking" for the first time on May 24th.

This bird, as I have already mentioned, behaved with the most praiseworthy restraint in the display of its vocal powers, and seldom, if ever, indulged in more than five "craiks" at a time, invariably rendered as follows: four "craiks," a pause, then a final one; this would usually continue for five or ten minutes, after which I found by experience that I could safely count upon twenty-four hours peace.

Moreover, he never, so far as I know, broke out during the night, or very early morning : his performances always taking place either about mid-day or during the afternoon. Altogether he proved to be in every respect a thoroughly well behaved and model bird, forming a most pleasing contrast to his predecessor. I found the nest, which was quite as cunningly concealed, and rather better constucted than the former one, quite a neat cup in fact, formed of pampas grass, though unlined as before, on June 16th.

It contained seven eggs, the colour and markings of which, I take it are too well known to need any description here, and the hen sat very close as before.

I at once covered the wire netting above the nest with sheets of tarred felting to protect it in some measure from possible thunderstorms, a practice I invariably pursue with all nests I find out in the open flights. Incubation must have already commenced, for the eggs all hatched out on June 25th, that is, save one which proved infertile. The very same evening, about 6 o'clock, a tremendously violent thunderstorm broke, accompanied by a torrential downpour of rain, and my hopes were at zero ; the next morning, however, proved fine and warm, and on visiting the aviary my gloomy forebodings were dispelled, as much to my relief I caught a glimpse of, at any rate, three lively little black specks ; little larger they seemed than bumble bees. Later on I discovered four, but as I never saw more than this number at a time, I concluded that two must have succumbed during the storm, and it was not until September, when I caught up all the Rails in order to ring and sex them that I found, much to my surprise, that six young Rails were alive and well.

(*To be concluded*).

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The Endurance of Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

(*Continued from page* 20).

The list given in the first instalment will bear careful consideration from the standpoint of the various signs placed against respective species. I am perfectly aware that on this topic there is by no means a unanimity of experience among aviculturists, for some of which local conditions and situation may be a sufficient explanation, but there is much that is still an apparent mystery.

I sincerely hope that these notes (experiences) will be followed by others from the pens of a wide circle of aviculturists, also, that the subject will not be approached by any attempt to prove any particular theory or particular school of thought, but that simple, honest experience will be given—from such many valuable and instructive deductions should be possible.

Before attempting to give any list of longevity among the birds already listed, I will first endeavour to justify two of the signs used in the said list, viz.:

□Are best kept in an aviary which permits of them being driven in at night and during periods of inclement weather.

†Are best taken indoors for the winter months.

I will preface my remarks by stating that wherever the facts refer only to one pair of birds, such will be stated—in the main these notes cover many pairs of each species referred to, and, of course, many seasons.

Now to return to the sign □. It will be noted under this I have included all the Whydahs, yet I am perfectly aware that many keep these outside all the year round and succeed; yet I also know that many get most annoying losses during the winter and early spring. My position is this, that on the whole they are a robust group, and quite able to bear out-door treatment in winter, but that there is one qualifying factor, viz.: they go out of colour during our winter, and it is during or immediately after this winter-moult that the losses occur; further, in a dry winter my losses have been practically nil, but during a wet winter season scarcely a Whydah survived the early spring months. Of course, those aviaries with roomy, well-lighted shelters fare the best, and in my own aviary and those of others which have come within the range of my observation, whether the season were wet or dry, when the birds were driven in at night, and only let out during the day at the discretion of their owners, the percentage of loss was very low indeed. This group of birds flourishes at our London Zoo under the "shut in at night" *régime*.

While I so write of the Whydahs, it will be noted that not a single one of the twenty-three species of Weavers I have listed bears this sign, although very many of them go out of colour (moult) in mid-winter. I am not fully prepared with a reason for this; it may be possible that the long tail plumes entail a greater strain upon the bird's system than is the case with the Weavers, yet I cannot accept this as a reason, though at one time my collection, a fairly large one, consisted entirely of Weavers, Whydahs, and the Weaving Finches generally (*Ploceidae*); nevertheless I am face to face with the fact that while the Weavers pass the winter without any apparent difficulty, the losses among the Whydahs are fairly numerous, especially during wet winters. Thus, whenever possible, my Whydahs come indoors for the winter, as my general aviary is not constructed on the "night-drive" principle.

Then certain of the Finches and Buntings bear this sign, too. Here I think there will be greater unanimity of experience, as in our Journal there have been many articles which seem to imply this; true, nearly every species so marked has successfully wintered outside, but the evidence of a single locality, single season, or a single aviary, without details, cannot be accepted as proving the case even for the Southern counties of Great Britain. I have kept many of these out of doors all the year round, *e.g.* my lovely little Lavender-backed Finch (*Spermophila castaneiventris*) passed through its first winter in my out-door aviary perfectly well (this winter had been dry but very severe, with long continued frosts); and was in spotless condition all the following spring and summer. The succeeding autumn, winter, and early spring, may be fairly described as mild, muggy, wet, and my little Lavender-backed Finch succumbed. Even in exceptional hard dry winters, I have found that it is not during severe frosts of even three and four weeks duration that birds need their owner's care, or the period when losses distress him, it is at the thaw that the critical period arrives.

Even at the risk of being considered prosy I must name a few conditions under which aviculturists may keep birds during the winter months, conditions which are not open main body of their fellow avics.

1. An aviary in an enclosed space, shut in by surrounding buildings and thus sheltered from driving wind, rain and snow, yet not debarred from sunlight.

2. An aviary in a sheltered position, in which the whole of the flight is covered in, even though there be no shelter attached.

I have no desire to weary my readers with too many such statements; these should suffice to make my meaning clear. Of course there are other conditions common to special localities, which modify or otherwise the risks of leaving birds in undisturbed possession of their freedom in an outdoor aviary during the winter months, *e.g.*, the aviculturist whose aviaries, some of the Sugar and Sunbirds could undoubtedly infinitely better position for taking risks, than the one who has to do his best with a sub-soil of clay. I think this must suffice for the present for the sign (□), though reference will again be made thereto later on.

To pass on to the sign (†), which indicates that the birds are best housed indoors for the winter months. I think but few of my readers will question my use of the dagger in the list (ante p.p. 16-20). I must, however, state that all the birds so marked were kept by me outdoors, usually from Easter till the end of October.

It will be noted that the birds which come under this heading are certain genera of the *Tanagridae*, certain *Ploceidae*, Sugarbirds, Sunbirds, Toucans, In very sheltered aviaries, some of the Sugar and Sunbirds could undoubtedly be wintered outside, but in our uncertain climate, with no two winters alike, is the risk worth while? Of the Tanagers, the genera *Euphonia, Clorophonia,* and some Calliste should certainly be brought indoors, or at any rate only given the range of shelter and covered flight; at least that is my experience of them, though I have kept most of them in fairly roomy indoor flights, in an outdoor building, without artificial heat of any description, and very many of the others do well in a "go as you please" out-door aviary all the year round; for instance, a pair of Blue Tanagers (*T. episcopus*) so lived in my aviary 11 and 10½ years respectively, Archbishop, Scarlet, Black, Palm, and Maroon have proved similarly long-lived; but I must not anticipate the longevity list. Individual aviculturists do much to modify weather conditions, according to the particular season, by applying such paraphernalia as Archangel mats, garden lights, etc., to exposed parts of the aviary, and the individual who is prepared to *take pains* accomplishes what another fails to achieve.

The vicissitudes of bird-life are not confined to our aviaries; true, our greatest foe is *unseasonable* weather, but our feathered friends in their native wilds have to pass through similar experiences. I well remember reading sadly a few years ago in an American ornithological journal words to this effect. "I wondered "what had become of our Blue Birds, none were visiting my "lawn, nor were they in evidence in the district generally as "usual. I visited some well known nesting sites, there were "no birds, or only strays. I climbed to investigate, and "from several such nest holes visited, I took five, six or more 'pitiful dead bodies, all having perished during the recent "severe, unseasonable weather—from all over the districts "reports of the scarcity of Blue Birds come in." Similar conditions prevail among our native birds during unseasonable periods—the evidence of dead bodies can be found if really looked for. During 1915 in my garden here I picked up from twelve to a score of bodies, plumage in exhibition trim and no signs of injury; the species were mostly Thrushes, Blackbirds, and Starlings; I casually opened and examined some of them and found evidences of pneumonia, enteritis, and in one instance cheesy nodules, pointing to some septic trouble. But I am getting off the track and must now leave it to my next instalment to return thereto.

(*To be continued*).

Psephotus Parrakeets at Liberty.

By the Marquis of Tavistock.

(Continued from page 13).

Until last year I had never tried Hooded Parrakeets at liberty, but having a fine acclimatised pair and some spare birds to fall back upon in case I lost them, I resolved to make the attempt. I therefore chose a fine still day in June, put the hen out in a cage in a conspicuous place, opened the aviary door, and retired to the house to watch developments. The cock soon made his exit and after flying about a little, returned, as I had hoped to his imprisoned mate. He was indeed a lovely sight as he darted about against a background of flowers and green foliage. All the *Psephoti* are very graceful on the wing, but the Hooded is the swiftest and most graceful of them all, and the cock looked more like a great butterfly than a bird as he flitted to and fro in his gorgeous garment of black, yellow, and pale glittering blue.

For a time peace reigned in the garden and all went well. A few old cock Broadtails dropped in for a hasty meal. but they were too busy with family cares to think of interfering with their new neighbour. Then the young Red-rumps turned up and the cheeky little hen, though only a few weeks out of the nest, went for the Hooded almost as soon as she saw him; but he soon sent her about her business, and again everything was quiet. Half an hour later, however, a more formidable enemy arrived on the scene in the shape of a pair of Blue-bonnets. Like all their kind they were inquisitive, mischievous and intensely spiteful, reigning practically supreme in that part of the garden, the only rival they feared—a cock Brown's—having removed himself elsewhere during the nesting season. Having driven off the Hooded after a brief skirmish, the male Blue-bonnet and his mate began to climb about the cage which contained the hen, greatly terrifying her by their threats, insults, and hostile demonstrations. This was too much for her husband, who returned bravely to the charge and a sharp battle ensued between him and the cock Blue-bonnet. The latter had the advantage in size, weight, and power of beak, besides being very active, but the Hooded put up such a plucky fight and was so quick on the wing that he was actually getting the best of it, when the hen Blue-bonnet turned the tables by coming to her mate's assistance. Against the two the Hooded had no chance and matters were ending in a nasty mix-up on the ground when I hurried out and separated the combatants. To prevent the renewal of hostilities, I was obliged to return the Hooded to the aviary. I did not at all like doing so as she was then out of sight of her mate, and also practically out of hearing, for Hoodeds like Many-colours, have weak voices and do not call much. My fears were partly realized, for the cock grew restless and finally flew away over the house, making me feel very anxious indeed. Luckily, however, he again fell in with the young Red-rumps and the second encounter seems to have been more friendly than the first, for the next day he was accompanying the hen who had treated him so unceremoniously on the occasion of their first meeting.

A few days later I released the hen Hooded and for a time the cock went back to her and was even seen to feed her. Then for some reason he began to neglect her and was more and more in the company of the young Red-rump, whom he finally took up with altogether, leaving her to console herself with the Red-rump's brother. Both Hoodeds passed through the winter successfully out of doors, and at the time of writing (June 1915) the cock and the young Red-rump are nesting in the same clump of trees as the latter's parents —rather an odd proceeding considering the pugnacity of all *Psephoti* during the breeding season, for the clump is quite a small one.

Psephotus pulcherrimus and *P. chrysopterygius* I have never been fortunate enough to obtain. The former is now so rare that it is doubtful if it will ever again be seen in this country: the latter appears to be only a local race of the Hooded, so there is no reason why it should not turn up again some day.

The two remaining *Psephoti* are *P. xanthorrhous*, the Common or Yellow-vented Blue-bonnet, *P. haematorrhous* the Red-vented Blue-bonnet, *P. xanthorrhous* has a yellowish-olive patch on the wing and pale yellow under the tail; *P. haematorrhous* has a maroon wing-patch and red feathers under the tail. In other respects the two forms are are alike and intermediate varieties are often met with.

BLUE-BONNETS have little in common with the other sub-genus in which they have been placed. The sexes are practically alike in colour, the hen being only a shade smaller and duller than her mate. Their habits are mainly arboreal, and although rapid runners they don't frequent the ground any more than the *Platycerci*—if as much. The only characteristic I have noticed as typically *Psephotine*, is the habit which male Blue-bonnets have of nibbling and caressing their mates' heads The true Broadtails never behave in this way, but the Red-rump and its allies do.

In disposition Blue-bonnets are lively and playful; with the exception of Mealy Rosellas they are the only *Platycercines* that often play. But they are dangerous in mixed company, and murderously attack any bird, large or small, which they are able to master. The majority of Broadtails fear them and give them a wide berth, but individual Mealy Rosellas and most Brown's Parrakeets are able to turn the table upon them to some purpose.

I have only once had a tame Blue-bonnet. Like the little girl in the rhyme "When she was good she was very very good, and when she was bad she was horrid." The circle of her friends was extremely narrow and as I was not allowed to enter it, I did not keep her very long.

A pair of Common Blue-bonnets formed part of the first consignment of Parrakeets I ever tried at liberty. They came rather late in the autumn and I feared they would hardly survive the winter with cut wings—a needless apprehension for Blue-bonnets are more indifferent to cold than any Parrakeet I know, and can be turned out of doors at any time of the year, even when newly imported. The pair in question moulted about mid-winter and proved to be good stayers when their wings had grown. A second pair were released full-winged, but one was found dead a few days later. The survivor remained in the garden, for unmated Blue-bonnets are far more contented than unmated Red-rumps, The following spring the pair nested, but just about the time when the young were due to appear an outbreak of septic fever—a disease to which Blue-bonnets are highly susceptible—carried off both parents and the odd bird as well.

That winter I tried another pair, but they disappointed me by straying off towards the end of February, staying in the neighbourhood for a few days and then vanishing completely. Unlike other *Psephoti*, Blue-bonnets seem well able to fend for themselves, which probably accounts for their being far more inclined to wander when given full liberty.

About six months later I obtained a dozen Blue-bonnets, which seemed perfectly well on arrival, but which, as a matter of precaution, I kept for some time in strict quarantine. It was lucky I did so, for in about a fortnight they began to die from what may be called "grey-parrot" fever, as it is the disease which carries off new imported Grey Parrots in very large numbers. The symptoms closely resemble those of septic fever, but the period of incubation is very much longer. *Post mortem* examination reveals the presence of a *diplococcus* in the blood, but there are none of the small yellowish-white spots found on the internal organs in cases of septic fever.

Some of the sick birds were sent to Scotland in order that the nature and progress of their complaint might be carefully studied in a laboratory. Although no special care was taken of them after arrival, as their case was considered hopeless, one individual actually recovered—a very rare event, as Grey-Parrot fever is fatal in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred.

Only a single pair of Blue-bonnets survived the outbreak and these I kept in an aviary until mid-winter. About that time I received a particularly fine male *P. haematorrhous*, and after a few days I gave him and the *xanthorrhous* cock their liberty, believing that the presence of the hen would induce them to stay. I was wrong, for the two gentlemen were so pleased with each others' company that they never gave a thought to the imprisoned lady, and after indulging with much *gusto* in a species of general engagement with three Adelaides, a Pennant's, four Mealy Rosellas, two Brown's and a King they took themselves off and were never seen again! Cock Blue-bonnets, though they certainly dislike their own kind less than other Parrakeets, are not, as a rule, exactly what one would call friendly towards each other, so the behaviour of these two was as unexpected as it was disgusting.

My luck had not been good, but the winter before last I determined to have yet another try and released several Blue-bonnets, with cut wings, in a grass quadrangle in the centre of the house. Some wandered off as soon as they could fly, but others were promising to stay well, when the unlucky introduction of a spaniel puppy brought the experiment to an untimely end. A few of the birds were killed and the rest were so badly frightened that only three—two cock *P. xanthorrhous* and a hen *haematorrhous*—decided to remain.

In the spring I got another mate for the odd cock, and turned her out with a cut wing. An unforseen complication followed, for, before she was discovered by her intended mate, a Yellow-bellied Parrakeet found her and promptly fell in love with her. The Yellow-belly had been flying at liberty for over a year, and had already paired with a hen Port Adelaide but his morals, I regret to say, were disgracefully lax, and he ended by possessing quite a harem of wives, all of which were of different species! His infatuation for the Blue-Bonnets was as great as it was reprehensible, and he made himself so insufferably unpleasant to the other cut-winged birds in the same enclosure (which could not, of course, escape from him), that I was compelled to remove the charmer and keep her in a cage until her wing had grown. I then released her with the cock I intended her for, but it proved an unlucky move as a few days later she strayed and took him with her.

The other pair stayed and nested, but produced no young and are still in the garden after more than a year of liberty. In spite of their rather pronounced inclination to wander Blue-bonnets have one great advantage—they are never killed by Owls. Either they take care to roost in a very safe place where they are not seen, or, as I think is more likely, they make things so unpleasant for the midnight assassin when he seizes them, that he drops them like a hot coal, and ever afterwards leaves them severely alone.

One word in conclusion: never keep a *Psephotus* Parrtakeet in a Parrot-cage for any length of time; it is little short of cruelty. None of the *Platycercinae* are suited to close confinement; the *Psephoti* least of all. Their spirits droop their beautiful tail get frayed and bent, their feet grow deformed and twelve months in durance vile will ruin the finest specimen—twenty-four will probably kill it. If you must keep a *Psephotus* when you have no aviary accommodation, get a rectangular cage of zinc and wire-netting made at least 3 feet by 2½ feet, and 3 feet high. Have two perches, one of medium size, the other quite thin. Do not forget to provide grit and baths, and to give plenty of greenfood, including small branches in leaf or bud. Except in the case of Blue-Bonnets, you can generally put the greenstuff in a vessel of water and thereby keep it fresh for quite a long time. The birds will nibble off what they actually require, but will not pull the food all over the cage and upset the water, as most Parrots would do.

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My Aviary and Gouldian Finches.

By Bernard C. Thomasset.

My Aviary*:* Early in 1913, soon after I came to Ashmansworth, I decided to take up bird keeping again.

I was fortunate in finding two solidly built and roomy pigsties facing south. They backed on to a large farm building which completely sheltered them from the north.

After some alterations I had two aviaries under one roof, consisting of two shelters, each 9ft. 6in., with two flights 14ft. x 10ft.

Unfortunately the shelters are low, 7ft. at back and 6ft. in front. The flights are 7ft. high and this makes it difficult to drive birds into the shelter when desired.

To a height of 4ft. the shelters have very thick walls of flint and brick, above this they are double boarded. The roof is of iron, boarded inside.

Each division is well lighted and has a wood and glass door opening into the flight.

In summer these doors stand open, but in winter the birds fly in and out through a small trap door, which can be closed.

The flights are boarded two feet at the bottom and above that consist of a light frame-work covered with wire-netting. As the position is very wind-swept, I have since sheltered the outer corners with glass lights and iron sheeting. Ashmansworth stands about 800 feet above sea level, on the top of the Hampshire Downs. The mean temperature is low and we are subject to furious gales and a good deal of white mist in winter. The soil is clay on chalk. Each spring Scotch fir branches are fixed up thickly in the shelters, a few are also put in the outer corners of the flight, where the top is covered with iron. The only growing cover is afforded by Jerusalem Artichokes.

In small aviaries I find bushes a mistake, as they encourage birds to roost outside in winter. In winter I cut down the artichokes and remove the fir branches from the flights, and nearly all the birds sleep in the shelters.

The floors of the shelter sheds are of concrete, while the flights are turfed, with a strip of gravel next to the shed.

All food is given in earthen pots, which are placed in trays hung from the roof of the shelters, and a large earthenware saucer of water is in each flight.

MY GOULDIAN FINCHES: These have bred remarkably well in my aviary during the two seasons.

I may say that I have only kept these birds in a small way, but as no species has given more disappointment to aviculturists, than the Gouldian Finch, any marked success with it ought to be worth recording.

About twenty years ago I used to try to keep this lovely species, but like most people, I found them very unsatisfactory. In those days I tried to keep them warm, never venturing to turn them out of doors. Invariably they died in a few weeks or months.

Once, I had a present of a dozen privately imported birds. They were in perfect condition, but they soon dropped off one by one.

I may say that the water supply of the part of Kent where I then lived was strongly impregnated with lime—of this more anon.

In the spring of 1913, I bought a pair of Black-headed Gouldians with other birds from an East-end dealer—most of the birds in that consignment (a large one) were in very poor condition. I picked out a fairly good looking cock bird, but of hens "bad was the best," and I had to be content with a bald-headed puffed out little specimen. This little misery has proved to be treasure.

These birds were caged and kept for a week indoors, but soon, some Masked Finches were dead and as a last hope I turned the survivors into the shelter of my newly built aviary. Next morning I picked up the corpse of the cock Gouldian, but the hen, in spite of chilly April weather, quickly picked up and was soon in good health though poor feather.

(*To be continued*).

The Bird Trappers of the Riverina.

This article and illustrations by Charles Barrett has been reprinted from the Austral'an Magazine "Life" (Apl., 1914), *with apologies to the author and publishers. —Editor, "Bird Notes."*

The Galah [Roseate Cockatoo.—Ed. "B.N."] has been the subject of much controversy. Many naturalists regard the bird as a farmer's friend; but wheat-growers declare that it is a pest and should be destroyed. When in Riverina towards the close of last year, I had opportunities to study the Galah question, I saw how the Cockatoos are trapped, and heard all the arguments in favour of the view that the species should be exterminated.

Without venturing any definite opinion, I may say that, if a commission, consisting of farmers and naturalists, with an independent chairman, were appointed to deal with the matter, the decision would probably be that the Galah, like the Starling, is desirable in some localities and the reverse in others.

So far as trapping is concerned, I learned this: If trappers do not work among the flocks of Galahs, farmers complain that the "pests" are "eating them out," and take the law into their own hands. They wage war against the birds with guns and poisoned wheat. I heard frequently of hundreds of Galahs destroyed in a day by one or other of these methods. Gunnery is the least objectionable of the two. The poisoned grain is eaten not only by the Cockatoos, but also by birds that are not generally considered enemies of the wheat-grower. One species of Parrot, at least, formerly abundant in Riverina, is practically extinct, and the trappers themselves blame poisoned grain. These facts I gathered when travelling with trappers.

In these hollow trunks and limbs of dead trees are hundreds of Galah nests.

"When are you coming to help me"? asked a young farmer, as we drove the waggon across his home-paddock. "The bloomin' cockies are eating me out. There's millions of 'em down in the crop." Wherever we went, similar remarks were made by wheat-growers, and the trappers were welcomed as friends in need when they outspanned, with intention to work the nets at dawn. As a bird-lover, I was worried to find the consensus of opinion against the Galah. Any measure likely to keep the flocks in check is considered legitimate. At gun-club meetings, Galahs are shot in lieu of pigeons, trappers being paid ninepence each for them. But the great majority of the birds trapped are sent to dealers in the city, who re-sell them to officers of steamers that trade between European and Australian ports. Many thousands of Cockatoos, I believe go to Germany each year, and find a ready sale at from 5s. to £1 a-piece. Is captivity in a foreign country preferable to death by poisoning or gunshot? That is a question which I pondered often in Riverina.

One morning I was taken to a wheat-field to see, as the owner expressed it, the "work of the blessed Galahs." There were perhaps a dozen birds flying over the wheat when we arrived, but none rose from the crop—if crop it could be called. On every side the stalks were broken down, and the grain had been stripped from the ears as if a machine had been over the area. Nor could a handful of grain have been gathered easily; this was no place for gleaners. I was assured that our Galahs alone were responsible for the devastation. This is the dark side of the lantern. Follows a flash from the bright side. I quote from "Wild Life in Australia," by Mr. D. Le Souef, C.M.Z.S., Director of the Melbourne Zoological Gardens.

"Flocks of Rose-coloured Cockatoos or Galahs were frequently noticed feeding on the ground, and very pretty they looked. Their favourite food seemed to be roots of a native plant *Microseris Forsteri*, and they also appreciate grass-hoppers eggs, digging up many thousands of them . . Hence Galahs should be protected as the farmer's friend."

Personally, I would deeply regret the extinction of the Galah even if it were proved that the bird does more harm than good. We must live and let live. To the true Nature-lover nothing is "common"; he cares for the Sparrow, which picks up a living in mean streets, as well as the Bird of Paradise. Fortunately, there are no signs that the Rose-breasted Cockatoo is dying out; on the contrary. In the course of a week's travelling through "Galah" country I saw enormous flocks, and thousands of nesting hollows which were either tenanted or had contained broods. My companion, who knows vast areas of the Riverina as well as I know the geography of my suburban garden, stated that the birds were in no danger of extinction. In fact, he thought there were more now than there were fifteen or twenty years ago. So much for the ethics of galah-trapping.

A Riverina Trapper with his Net and Tame Decoy Galah.

Having obtained permission to accompany a party of trappers, I packed up camera and plates in a rug, and walked to my good friend's home. The waggon was standing in the yard, and I examined it with interest. The top-hamper consisted of a huge cage—coarse wire-netting and frame of light battens—divided into sections, and fitted with dozens of long bamboo perches. Beneath the cage was a locker, stored with nets, tent, blankets, food-supplies, and so forth. Under the seat in front was another locker, filled with odds and ends, cups, billies, rope, and other necessaries of a land-voyage. In a compartment of the cage were two sleek Galahs, the call-bitds, lacking which the trappers might as well stay at home. More of these later.

Well, we started out against the wind, with the sun blazing from a cloudless sky. Dust, until the roads were left behind, was more trying even than heat or persistent flies. Hour after hour of weary travel, relieved by the sight of unfamiliar birds. Among the star-thistles I saw the lovely Crimson-breasted Chat; Song-larks kept rising from pools of shade by fence-posts, and Wood-Swallows were numerous everywhere.

We were grateful when the day's journey ended in a timbered paddock, where the branches of old gum-trees flung purple shadows on the parched ground. Our camping spot was near a farmhouse, and it was not long ere we received visitors. To the question, "Any Galahs about?" the answer came, "Plenty over in the crops." But the trappers did not begin the work of setting nets until night.

There was only misty moonlight, and the men, working at the nets appeared as flitting shadows; but I could hear the tapping of mallets on iron stakes, and subdued voices. The effect was weird. Far off, a light in camp glimmered no bigger than a firefly on the sight; leaves rustled faintly in the night wind. Returning to the waggon, we smoked for a while, and then lay down. Mosquitoes and other insects did their best to keep us wakeful, but before midnight we were sleeping.

It was still dark when I awoke, to hear my companions moving about quietly. Rubbing the sleep from my eyes, I joined them, and together we hurried to the crop paddock, where the nets had been set overnight. Behind one of the shelters from which the nets are operated, with two other watchers I awaited dawn and the coming of the Galahs. An hour passed uneventfully, and the cramped position behind the bag-screen was becoming irksome. But no sooner did the eastern sky flush rose-pink—the colour of the galah's breast—than the birds began to appear. In twos and threes at first they came, flying swiftly from the trees along the creek, then in flocks of thirty or forty. The air was full of Cocatoos. It was wonderful to see this assembling over the wheat of a host of beautiful birds. As they wheeled and dived, the sunlight, feeble as yet, shone softly on grey and rose-tinged plumage. Once or twice, some magical touch of the sun transformed a bird into a living form of silver, which seemed to float in the blue. But the harsh cries oft the Cockatoos put all one's dreams to flight.

For awhile none of the Galahs came near a net. Then the call-birds became vocal, and the trappers crouched lower, intent, keen-eyed, and ready to act. From the shelter I watched a flock alter its line of flight, and steer for the net, attracted by the notes of the call-birds. The wild, free, Galahs answered their captive fellows, hesitated for a few minutes, then dropped down on to the unseen net. Instantly the rope controlling the release was pulled by a trapper, and a babel of bird-voices arose. Ten out of about thirty Galahs were caught.

An Albino Galah. These freaks of Nature are worth from £5 apiece upwards.

One by one the new captives were taken from the net and placed in a box behind the shelter. Great care was used in securing the birds, because a snap from the beak of an angry Cockatoo is apt to cause a severe wound. I did not venture to help the trappers, but was glad to see that they handled the Galahs as gently as possible.

Four times in the course of an hour the nets were sprung, with varying results. Over eighty birds altogether were captured; hundreds escaped the nets. When the early sunshine hours have passed, the galahs leave the feeding grounds. Daylong the trappers enjoy leisure; their work is at night and dawn.

Returning to the waggon, the men transferred their captives from boxes to the big cages, where food and water awaited them. Some of the birds, naturally, were sulky for a time, but they soon became reconciled to the new conditions.

While the transfer was in progress, one young bird managed to win freedom.

"Good luck to you, old chap!" said the trapper, as the bird flew, screeching, over the tree-tops. "You deserve to go."

The trappers may remain on the plains for two or three weeks, moving from one place to another. The birds soon become wary, and it is of little use to attempt trapping at one spot on two successive mornings. When a sufficient number of birds to form a "consignment" has been captured, a member of the party takes them to the town, his comrades staying in camp. Every care is used; the Galahs are well treated, and I was told that it was rare for any to die while in the trapper's charge, or during the journey to Sydney. On the voyage overseas, however, deaths probably occur. Large numbers of Finches and other small birds that are exported from Australia, perish miserably at sea. Cockatoos, however, are more easily fed than the "small fowles," and are hardy withal

I wonder whether the German frau, who teaches her pet cocky to say, "Gretchen," ever feels curious as to its place of nativity? Does she know that it was born in a dark hot hollow in the trunk or limb of a gum-tree, growing on the bank of the Riverina stream? Perhaps not. But if only the bird could tell its story, instead of merely repeating words of which it does not know the meaning! It it harder for an Australian Cockatoo to utter German words than to say, "Scratch poor cocky," or "Give cocky a nut"?

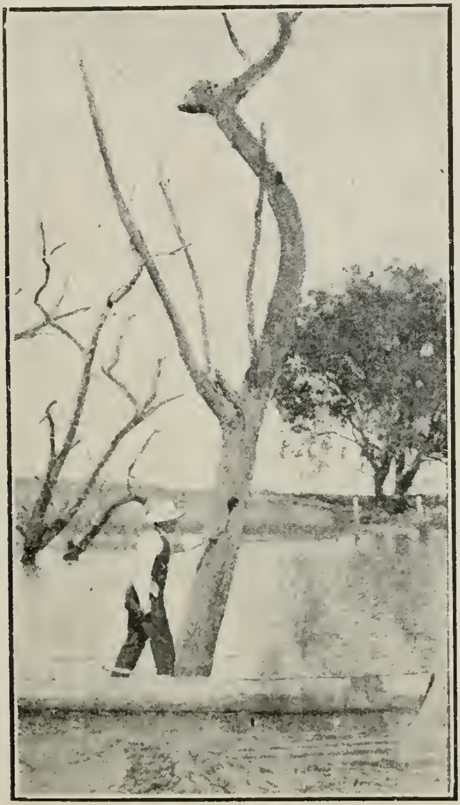
Some of the men who traffic in Galahs and Parrots are fearless climbers. Collecting fledglings is another phase of the business, more arduous than trapping. All the nesting trees are known, and when the time is ripe, each is visited. Some of the hollows are low down, and the young birds can in such cases be obtained without any difficulty. But when the nest-hole is in a lofty branch, or high up in the trunk of a dead tree, the climber's skill is displayed.

During my Riverina trip I saw a young man conquer several giant gums that few would care to tackle. He used a bit of stout rope, flung round the trunk of the tree, and the ends held in either hand. Barefooted, he worked his way upward so quickly that I was not ready with the camera when he had reached the top boughs. Expert climbers prefer dead to living trees, because the boughs of the latter are more likely to break. Sapless limbs are tough. Still, the men do not shirk dangerous trees if there is anything to be gained by climbing them. The life of a bird-trapper is not hard but he has to take some risks, and that of falling from a tree, through a bough breaking, is one of them.

One morning Jack came back to camp, after the usual dawn-work, with the news that there was a white Galah among a flock that he had been observing. He vowed that he would capture the albino before leaving the locality, but failed to do so. He may, of course, have succeeded on a second expedition.

Later in the day I saw the albino in company with about 300 normal birds. It was conspicuous, the white wings flashing bravely wherever it went. White Galahs are rare, and £5 would not be regarded as an exorbitant price for a perfect specimen. I have seen only two of these albinos in captivity—both taken as fledglings from the nest—and they excited admiration. But I would not say that their beauty is greater than that of the ordinary galah. We are apt to be deceived by the rarity of an object. Even a plainsman, who cares nothing for the common form, would probably be eager to possess an albino bird.

Strangely enough, at several of the farmhouses where I received hospitality, and at a boundary-rider's hut here and there Galahs were kept as pets. In some instances, the birds were caged; but one lady at least showed me a number of tame wild-birds. Several of these are Galahs, which are at liberty to come and go at will. They are away with the flocks during the greater part of the day, and return to the home-



Where the Parrots Nest. Author at the nest of a Galah; a second nest-hole is seen higher up the trunk and there is a third near the top.

stead towards dusk. They have favourite perching-places close to the house. On excellent terms with the lady who won them with kindness, the birds will have nothing to do with strangers. They were suspicious of the camera. and nearly an hour was occupied in obtaining a photograph, which includes only two birds.

At this pleasant homestead I would gladly have lingered but plans had to be carried out, and we were on the track before noon of the second day. That is one of the penalties of making even little journeys. One meets friendly folk for a day or two then it is good-bye. Welcome and farewell. It is the same with places. A spot where one has rested or seen some rare bird, flower, or exquisite group of trees, becomes fixed in memory; it may never be visited again. This is rather a quaint ending to an article on Galah trapping; but then, you know, I am a chronicler of impressions

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Correspondence.

INDIGO × NONPAREIL BUNTING HYBRIDS.

Sir,—It may be of interest to state that I caged one of these hybrids, It is a cock, a charming, tame little bird.

Already he shows much blue in his plumage, chiefly on the head, throat, and back, The belly is clear yellow, and the breast yellow flecked with blue. I think that long before three years he will be in adult plumage

He sings very sweetly, and his song is much more sustained than that of his Indigo father. The latter's song always reminds me of that of our Chaffinch.

The other hybrid is outside with a hen Nonpareil, with which I hope he may pair.

I fear they will be agressive birds in a mixed aviary—my caged bird, which is often let out in the room, persecutes a Roller Canary when they are loose together.

Ashmansworth, 31/'1/'16. BERNARD C. THOMASSET.

[The Indigo is evidently dominant in these hybrids; but as many Nonpareils which have been imported into this country in nesting plumage, do not come into full colour (adult plumage) till the second or third moult following their importation. it is just possible that more of the Nonpareil may be indicated in their plumage after later moults—we hope Mr. Thomasset may be able to keep them long enough to show whether such is the case or not.—ED.]

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Necklace Dove brooding Young.

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Breeding Season 1915, in Boyers House Aviaries.

BY W. SHORE BAILY.

(Concluded from page 27).

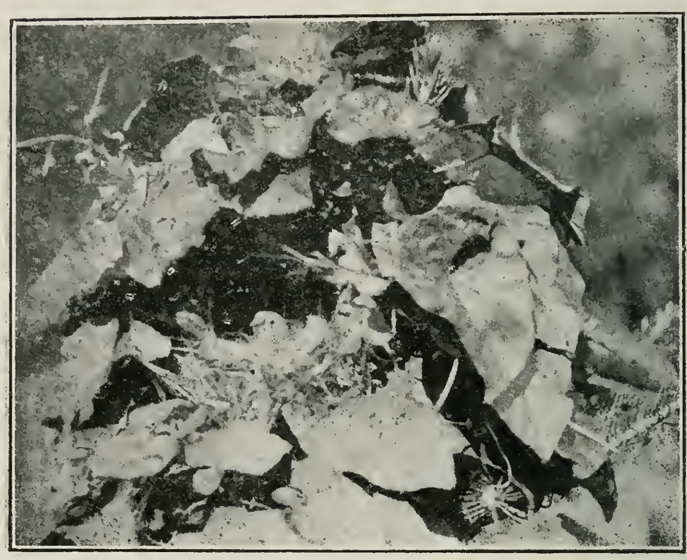
My Diamond Doves, too, were a failure, a most unusual experience with me, but I think that a change of blood was wanted here, as this species so seldom fails—it is one of the most charming of the Dove-tribe.

Neither Bleeding-Heart nor Cape (Masked) Doves attempted to nest.

Necklace Doves were quite a success, eight really strong young ones being reared. Four hybrids were also successfully reared from a male Necklace mated with a Senegal Turtle Dove. The hybrids are very pretty birds, favouring the Senegal in size and colour, but having a spotted collar like the Necklace; the spots, however, are black and bronze instead of black and white as with the latter bird. I exhibited one of them at the recent Holborn Show.

FINCHES: Among these the Zebra Finches were the most prolific, one pair rearing fourteen young ones, and strange to say all the nests were open cup-shaped ones (*vide plate*), being constructed either in boxes or shrubs; thus materially differing from the domed nests constructed in Dr. Lovell-Keays' aviaries [The domed nest is typical of the species —ED.]. Late in October at least four pairs of these young birds were incubating at the same time, *and all in open cup-shaped nests*. Chicks were hatched, but the bad weather in November killed them alll.

The story of my success with Black Seed-finches has



Zebra Finch Incubating.

Photos W. Shore Baily.

Zebra Finch at Nest

already been told: in all they nested three times. On the last occasion the nest was constructed in an old wooden travelling cage. Three young birds left the nest, but only one was fully reared. I have noticed with insect-eating birds that the first to leave the nest is the strongest, and usually gets nearly all the food, the others dying from neglect.

Sulphury Seed-eaters nested twice, fully rearing one young one on each occasion.

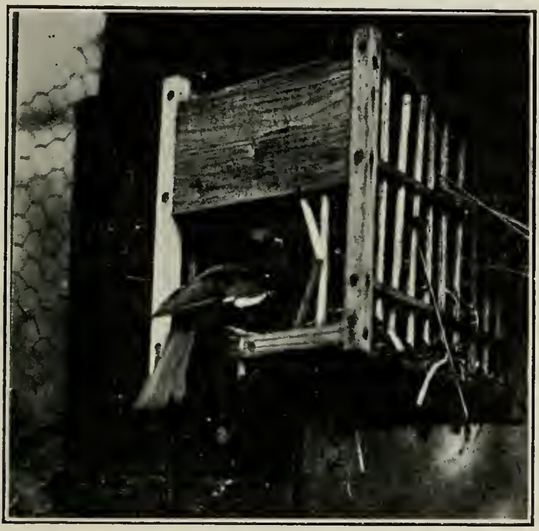


Photo W. Shore Baily.
Black Seedfinch Entering Nest.

Saffron Finches and Yellow Sparrows also had two nests each, fully rearing three young birds at their last attempts, which took place in October.

Full details of the rearing of the other small birds have already appeared in our Journal.

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My Aviary and Gouldian Finches.

By Bernard Thomassett.

A little later I got a beautiful Red-headed cock, which did well from the first. No signs of nesting were noted but, when clearing out nest boxes in the autumn, several eggs were found.

The pair of birds remained in the out-door aviary until the middle of January, roosting in the shelter which is unheated. Finally, after a night when we registered 18 degrees of frost, I caught and caged them, though I cannot say that they seemed to suffer from the cold.

I do not possess a bird-room, and those birds which cannot stay out have to live in my smoke-room. It is a cheerful room with windows facing S.E., and S.W., and is the only moderately warm room in a very cold house. Here the Gouldians occupy an all-wire cage 30in. x 15in. x 28in high. It is furnished near the top with a small twiggy branch at one end and a thickish perch at the other. Between these the birds have space to fly. A pot containing white millet and Canary seed, and an earthenware saucer of water are on the floor of the cage, and a spray of millet is hung from the top.

By-the-bye, they are most pleasant birds in a a room, very lively and cheerful, the cocks constantly singing their ridiculous little song and they never scatter their seed. Long-tailed Grassfinches I find unpleasant as cage birds. In a room they are dirty and untidy and they never get tame like Gouldian Finches. While in the cage the Gouldians moulted and when turned out in May, 1914, they were in perfect plumage and condition. They soon went to nest in a small box hung on a roof beam in the shelter, and the first brood of five flew in July. After the young birds left the nest the cock took entire charge of them. The hen soon began to lay again and in late August a second brood of six left the nest to be followed, quite late in October, by the last batch, this time of two birds.

As the weather was wet and cold and as I had found that, on leaving the nest, the young ones lived entirely in the open flight, I thought it best to bring parents and young indoors.

The hen bird was soon caught, but the cock was so swift on the wing that it was some time before I secured him. Catching birds with a net always seems to me a brutal business; in this case it proved to be a fatal one. Next morning the bird was dead from what proved to be haemorrhage of the brain. The good little hen successfully reared the two young ones in the cage, bringing her score for the year up to thirteen.

About equal numbers of the young proved to be red- and black-headed birds.

During the winter I was able to buy a Black-headed cock from one of our members.

Last spring the birds were put out on the 5th May.

They must have gone to nest at once, as on the 14th I found four eggs in the old nest-box.

The first brood flew on June 24th (six of them), followed by five more on August 15th, and another six flew on October 14th.

I caught and caged all the family as soon as the chicks began to leave the nest. This time without murdering the father. The parents commenced to feed the young ones a few minutes after they were in the cage and all were reared.

I fancy that the reason why my Gouldians have nested in spring, and not waited until late summer or autumn, is that the change of temperature and surroundings from an out-door aviary to a sitting-room, throws them into moult. They complete their moult during the winter and by May they are in breeding condition.

I believe that hard water causes the death of many of these birds. Here our only water supply is rain water. Where clean rain water cannot be obtained it would be advisable to boil the drinking water.

When feeding young, Gouldian Finches consume large quantities of seeding grass, and I find that perennial rye grass is their favourite kind, next to that they like couch grass, Canary seed, white millet and spray millet should always be supplied with cuttle bone and crushed egg shells.

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Some Observations on the Nesting of Landrails in Captivity.

By Gerald E. Rattigan.

(*Continued from page* 28).

Two of these young birds were always tamer and more confiding than the others, which soon learned to take special tit-bits from my fingers without any hesitation. The others would only appear on my concealing myself, when they would very cautiously creep out of the surrounding grass only to disappear instantly on my slightest movement, but as I have already observed I never saw more than four at a time and only rarely more than three.

For the first three days the chicks used to take their food from the bill of their mother, but soon learned to forage for themselves, and it was amazing to see them tackle a worm as big in length or even longer than themselves without any difficulty. After feeding the two bolder chicks, which always followed her to the feeding dishes, she always used to fill her beak with as much provender as she could carry and take it off to the rest of her brood, who were lying hid, and expectantly waiting in the long grass somewhere near by. In this way she would make many and repeated journeys until their wants had been satisfied, when she would finally partake of a hearty meal on her own account. The hen at this time displayed the most lively concern on my entering the aviary, running at me in a curious crouching attitude with her beak wide open, and making the while a peculiar hissing noise. The hen also utters a quaint sort of sound when calling her brood, a kind of subdued "Hu, Hu, Hu," which, though delivered in a very low tone, yet carries a surprising distance.

The cock ceased "craiking" as soon as the young were hatched, and from this time until the young were full grown, he led a most harassed and miserable existence. He took no part in the duties of incubation, nor was he permitted to take any part in the subsequent rearing of his family. I say "not permitted" advisedly, for I firmly believe that had he been granted the opportunity he would have taken the greatest interest and pride in his offspring. The poor fellow used to sneak up occasionally, and watch his family, with a truly benevolent and paternal expression, from a safe coign of vantage, but woe betide him if discovered, his spouse would dash at him like a veritable virago and rain a shower of blows upon his devoted head, until he reached the kindly shelter of a clump of pampas grass to which he always made helter-skelter.

His sole contribution to the raising of the family appears to be his heroic, though entirely misplaced, vocal effort, which only continues while the hen is actually incubating, for the moment the chicks are hatched, it ceases. To this unfortunate belief of his possibilities as a songster may, perhaps, be traced the irritability of his spouse, who at all other times and seasons, be it said, is a most placid and good tempered creature. The poor fellow, there is no doubt, thinks quite honestly that his nightmare of a serenade will cheer her up. He reasons it out, I take it, something like this: "She must feel very bored and dull sitting there all day long on those wretched eggs, and is probably both stiff and cramped to boot, so I will just try and cheer her up with a bit of a song."

I don't mean to say that all cock birds think like this, for I am sure they don't; my last cock didn't, for instance, he was a real brute and took a perfectly fiendish delight in his diabolical noise, I'm sure; but the bird I have now is a young one, probably in his first nesting season, and had all the loving ardour of the newly wed. That he "sang" out of the best of motives, is, I submit, clearly proved by his manner of singing. He starts gaily—lightheartedly enough, but after three "craiks" pauses, evidently horrified at the result of his efforts, then comes one more dispairing effort (it may have been my imagination, of course, but it always seemed to me that the final "craik" ended in a note that was almost a wail of despair). After which, now evidently thoroughly shocked and frightened at the horrible result of his efforts, he probably concluded that he must have caught a bad chill or something, hastily decides to give his voice a rest and relapses, until the following day, into a gloomy silence, when the same manœuvres are gone through once more. It was quite pathetic and I felt really sorry for the poor fellow, he seemed to feel his failure as a vocalist so keenly, and yet always started off so hopefully and cheerfully at his next attempt, showing what a persevering and sanguine disposition he possessed. As soon, however, as the chicks hatched out and the hen was free to do so, she quickly put an end to it all and must, I fear, have told him, with plain and brutal bluntness that his voice was no good and never would be any good for anything except for frying onions, for from that day his efforts ceased entirely, and never again did he indulge in a solitary "craik" even when courting her again, as he did later on in the season (pairing observed to take place on July 18th). His spirit was thoroughly broken.

On several occasions I endeavoured to obtain some snap-shots of the family party, but although opportunities for a good picture were not wanting, all my attempts, I am sorry to say, ended in failure, probably because the camera, a vest-pocket Kodak, with which I was operating, was hardly suitable for the purpose.

Some of the chicks were always noticeably darker than the others and all grew very rapidly. On examining the chicks on July 7th, the plumage was as follows: Black lines extending from each side of the neck down the flanks, flights, and a streak over the eye brown (blackish stripe or line below down centre of breast), remainder of plumage smoky black, presenting rather a patchy appearance.

On July 13th they were almost as large as their parents, and brown distinctly predominated in their plumage, though the black lines down flanks and centre of breast still remained.

On September 5th, I caught up all the 'rails for the purpose of ringing and sexing them and the young were at this time practically indistinguishable from the old hen.

The sexes, even at this age, appear easy to separate, hens having much more snaky looking heads and finer beaks; the beaks of the cocks appearing much more wedge shaped.

The young chicks were fed as under:—
Spratts' chicken meal or alternately "Banto."
"Life" food: 100 earthworms in the morning, and an-

other 100 about 4 p.m.

Live ants' eggs and egg (hard boiled) and breadcrumbs.

The diet for the first three days, however, appeared to consist entirely of earthworms, and I believe these to be an absolutely necessary item of the diet, for the first few weeks at all events. Curiously enough the sexes were equally divided amongst the young, three cocks and three hens. All of them were disposed of, mostly to our members, in whose aviaries. I trust they will successfully rear young this coming season.

I will end with the further pious hope that they (the members in question) will be as lucky as I was this year in their cock birds!

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The Story of my Black-headed Gull.

By Frank Dawson-Smith.

Some years ago I received from a friend in Lancashire a large travelling hamper containing various sea and shore birds. Among them were three Gulls. Two of these were Kittiwakes, and the third was supposed to be a Black-headed Gull in winter plumage. It is the story of the last-named that I will now relate. I must preface my remarks by saying that he was dubbed "Black-headed Gull" for want of a truer definition; but he was not *pur et simple* of that breed. One aviculturist who saw him gave his opinion that he was a "Peach Gull." Nobody could place him exactly. Two fairly expert opinions declared him to be a Masked Gull, and I am inclined to agree that this was the most correct description. He was much smaller than the ordinary Black-headed Gull, and his summer head plumage was not black, but brown, and it did not cover his head beyond the front part—like a mask. Added to this he was extremely pugilistic and quarrelsome with other birds, whether of his own or different species, while an ordinary Black-headed Gull is almost invariably gentle and friendly. My mysterious friend was curiously marked. In place of the usual spot on the side of the head, he possessed two concentric rings of black—like two bars. And he was at once given the name of "Barred Head." An adult bird when received, he did not approve of being confined to the lawn with a clipped wing, and made sundry attempts to escape into the larger freedom outside the grounds. All his attempts in this direction proved futile, as his fame had rapidly spread, and he was invariably brought back by some wayfarer, who had met him on the high road sometimes a considerable distance from home. This restlessness, however, ceased suddenly, and for ever, after a terrible adventure which befell him one bitter winter day. A deep earthenware pan of fresh water had been placed in the run and Barred Head leaped on to the rim, and thence into the water, where he splashed about happily until the pan was nearly empty. That proved his undoing. For, alas! with the water nearly all gone, and the sides of the pan nearly perpendicular, and very slimy and slippery, he could not get out. There was nothing to afford purchase for his feet and there he had to remain for, I suppose, many long hours, before he was discovered. To add to his distress it was freezing hard, and only the incessant movement of his little feet kept the water from freezing as hard as a rock. When I found him, his case seemed hopeless. He was lying on one side, unable to move and quite paralysed by the biting cold. I lifted him gently and carried him, apparently lifeless, indoors, and placed him in a warm flannel-lined basket by a good fire. The heat restored the arrested vitality in his poor little legs, and he slowly recovered, and presently was able to totter weakly about. The immediate effect of this dreadful experience was to eliminate all desire to escape, and he gave his *parole d'honneur* not to try again. Thenceforward he settled down quite happily and contentedly on the lawn, and, as if to show his gratitude for the tender care and nursing he had received, he became most friendly and sociable. He would run and meet me the moment I called him and did all in his power to show that he was my pal—staunch and true.

During the day he ran loose about the lawn and gardens and indulged in frequent bathing in a large shallow tank, kept for the use of my waders. But always, at dusk—or rather an hour before dusk—he went, of his own accord, into a large, enclosed run, where he spent the night.

According to my experience Black-headed Gulls are not by any means pugnacious but Barred-head was a law unto himself. He allowed no other bird in his run or on the lawn.

I tried to introduce a mate, but he chivvied them all unmercifully, and a smaller bird was disposed of instantly. It was amusing to watch him sparring with a pet Curlew, who kept him at a respectful distance with the aid of his long bill, in quite a scientific style. Barred-head would make frequent charges at the Curlew, but the latter parried him with his long curved bill, much to Barred-head's disgust and chagrin. He then tried a venture in the fighting line with some ornamental Ducks, but there was "nothing doing." Next he experimented with an Oyster Catcher, and this time he came off victor, leaving the poor Oyster Catcher dead. I found the conqueror strutting beside his victim hysterically singing his "hymn of hate." After this exhibition of Hunnishness I took prompt and decisive action to prevent similar actions, and the pugnacious little fellow was compelled to exist in splendid isolation. This was a severe punishment for the belligerent, who, after being "cock of the walk," had nothing left to fight. And this must have afforded him food for reflecttion. As there was no more "strafing" it was better to discuss terms of peace, and secure a friend if possible. This required deep cogitation as to what bird should be allowed to share his solitude. No bird of his own size could win his favour, and no smaller bird would survive the ordeal. We finally decided to experiment with a Heron, and Barred Head at once accepted his friendship. It was really quite extraordinary to watch these two chums. If the Heron came out of the run first, he would stand still on the lawn, and utter a call in his deep voice, and keep on calling until Barred Head joined him. They were inseparable, and were always to be seen together.

In the spring the bars on the head disappeared and then the dark brown mask formed over the face and front of the head. This plumage was retained until August, when the bars reappeared. The photographs show both winter and summer plumage. It was when the breeding plumage was assumed that he exhibited his greatest pugnacity. At this season the sight of any bird in his vicinity would rouse all his natural fighting instinct. He would lower his head and slowly advance at the enemy, the while he gave vent to a deep "rattling" cry, probably a challenge or war cry. As the years passed he formed other friendships, one being with a Jackdaw. The two would sit on the lawn—a study in balck and white. Another favourite was a Great Black-backed Gull, whom he followed about pacifically. On one memorable occasion he met his master. I had somewhat thoughtlessly placed a Richardson's Skua in his run, temporarily. Until I removed the new comer to other quarters, poor Barred Head had a rough time. Not that they actually fought. They didn't. It wasn't necessary, as the Skua completely held sway, and overawed Barred Head. The Skua would stand in a stiff straight, uncompromising attitude, dancing on tip toe. He then opened his beak wide, and let Barred Head know his undiluted opinion of him. Barred Head lowered his head and thrust his neck out, while all his feathers became ruffled, and an amusing colloquy ensued. Evidently it had become a slanging match, in which both combatants "strafed," and

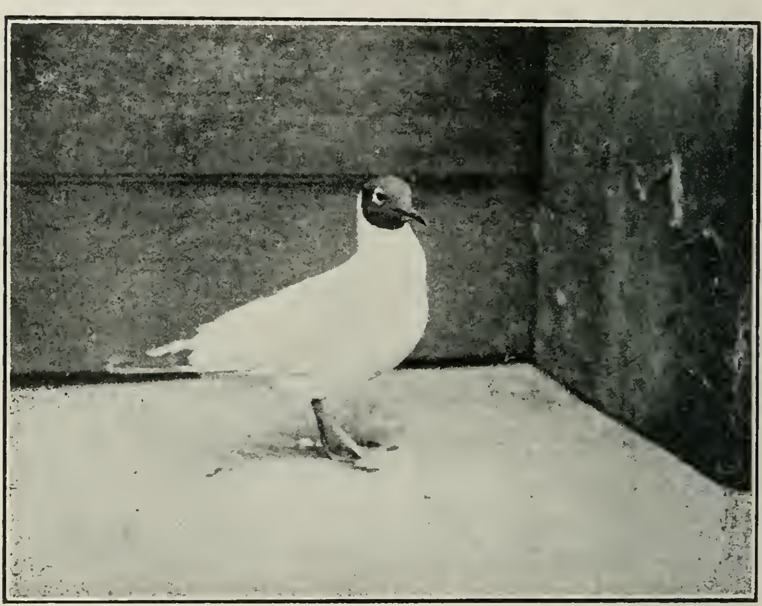

Photo F. Dawson Smith.

" Barred-Head "—Summer Plumage.

neither listened.

For food Barred Head would eat anything and everything. His staple diet was fish cut up into small pieces. Cheese was greatly relished as a treat. But his favourite meal was a handful of live minnows placed in a bowl of water. As soon as he spotted them he fished them out and swallowed them one after another before you could say "knife."

Dear little Barred Head remained a much beloved member of our family for many years; a tame, and beautiful pet. Neither summer heat nor winter cold troubled him. He was always the same. The only change being his head markings as the seasons came and went.

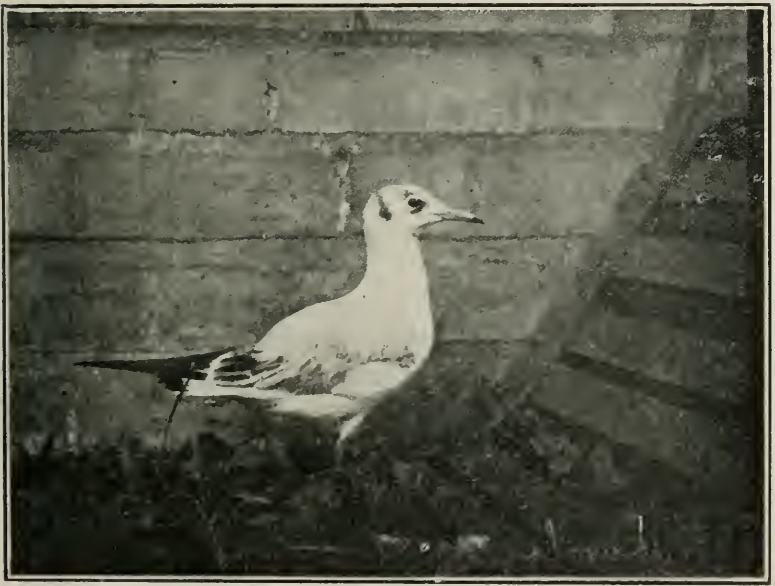

Photo F. Dawson Smith.

"Barred-Head"—Winter Plumage.

Then one direful day fate drew near in the shape of a fox. The brute stole into the grounds at night and burrowed a hole into the run where my little friend was asleep, and poor Barred-head's "number was up." I have had many Black-headed Gulls, but never one that gave me the pleasure and interest which my little Barred-head gave. His loss could never be replaced, and he will always be remembered with true affection for his tameness, and for the curious and most interesting study he afforded. Dear little Barred-head! Black-headed Gulls are well known, and in the winter visit the bridges which cross the Thames in London, and also in St. James' Park in large numbers. They become very tame and will even seize scraps of food from a person's outstretched fingers. If a scrap of food is thrown into the air it is dexterously caught before it reaches the water. Their flight is very graceful and it is a fine sight to see them gliding and swooping around. In early spring these Gulls repair to their breeding situations, which are usually found in marshy places, often far from the sea. They are sociable birds and are found breeding in colonies. Three eggs are usually laid—sometimes four, and incubation begins about the first week in May. The eggs are frequently gathered and eaten and no doubt they are very palatable and welcome to the people who live near the galleries. Many colonies breed in Moorland districts in the north of England and Scotland, and are said to destroy Grouse eggs, but the last accusation is very doubtful. They undoubtedly eat large quantities of insects and other harmful pests, and must do a considerable amount of good in this way. I often watched Barred head energetically employed in catching them on the lawn. His little feet positively "twinkled" during his quick rushes, then a sudden "snap" and a fly, gnat, or other pest had departed this life.

When I see a Black-headed Gull it invariably recalls tender, regretful, memories of the spotlessly clean little Barred-Head, who endeared himself to everybody by his quaint characteristics. You see I can't keep away from him in this article; even when I make a determined effort to talk about Gulls in general I find myself again specialising in Barred-head in particular. Anyway this is a story about him, isn't it? So he deserves the major part—and has it! A Seagull is at all times a beautiful creature, but never so much so, as when on the wing. As I conclude these notes the following lines occur to me. They are wonderfully descriptive of a Seagull's flight:

"Wild wave-wanderer,
Precipice-ponderer,

Haunter of Heaven and searcher of seas
Tho' not for wonder born,
Through clouds asunder torn,
Heedless of horror, with sickle-like ease."

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The History of the Budgerigar.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., Etc:

In the history of the Budgerigar as a cage-bird, two dates at least may be taken as accurately fixed, (1) that of its first importation alive (1840); (2)the first appearance on the English show bench of the blue variety, November, 1910, but between them there is much that remains still uncertain or at any rate not generally known, for instance, the first breeder in captivity, the origin of the yellow and blue varieties, etc.

Dr. Russ, in "Die Papagien," the third volume of his monumental work on Foreign Cage-birds, devotes more than 30 closely printed pages to this bird, in which he gives as is his wont, a full, practically encyclopaedic, account, dealing with its history, breeding, description, varieties, price, etc., in fact with everything connected with it, and as complete a record as possible, but being in German, and forming part of four large volumes is not open to all, it would, however, amply repay translation by any aviculturist who has plenty of time on his hands and a knowledge of German, as indeed would the whole work, which is a veritable mine of information on all things pertaining to Foreign bird keeping.

Moreover too, even this account of Russ', comprehensive as it is, does not give all the information one would like, nor does it entirely disperse the mists, which one may say seem to hang over the middle history of the Budgerigar. It also, of course, does not deal with the happenings of recent years, that is since the date of its publication, 1881. Some of the uncertain points are, I am afraid, now never likely to be fully cleared up, but it is as an attempt in this direction that I have compiled this review of what has been written on the subject in such English books and periodicals, as at present are at my disposal as a contribution (in our own language, and, as far as possible in the words of the writers themselves) towards the complete history (as distinct from the Natural History) of this well-known little Parrakeet, which may help to bridge the distance between the rare Museum specimens of the first four decades of the last century and the easily-bred, practically domesticated, thousands, if not millions, of to-day.

The earliest name applied to this bird was *Psittacus undulatus*, the Undulated Parrot. Other English names are Grass-Parrakeet, Australian Grass-Parrakeet, Warbling Grass-Parrakeet, Undulated Grass-Parrakeet, Scolloped Parrot, Singing Parrakeet, and as more popular and dealers' names we find Zebra Parrakeet, Zebra Grass-Parrakeet, Australian Love-bird, and (in Australia) Canary Parrot. The name "Budgerigar" is a corruption of the native name "Batchcherrygah." Newton tells us in his Dictionary of Birds that this name has been further corrupted into Beauregard!

Latham in his General Synopsis of Birds (1781 to 1785) appears to be the first English writer to mention this bird, and some thirty years later Wagler records as a rarity a single specimen in the Museum of the Linnaean Society.

Another ten years brings us to the beginning of what may be called the avicultural history of the Budgerigar, that is, its first importation by John Gould, the celebrated naturalist and bird-artist, who writes (vol. ii. p. 82) in his Handbook to the Birds of Australia, which was published in 1863:

> "I believe I was one of the first who introduced living examples "to this country, having succeeded in bringing home several on my "return in 1840. Since that period nearly every ship coming direct "from the southern parts of Australia has added to the numbers of this "bird in England, and I have more than once seen more than two thousand at a time in a small room at a dealer's in Wapping."
>
> "The bird has also bred here as readily as the Canary; still "it is one which cannot be naturalised in a wild state, our climate not "having the requisite degree of warmth, nor producing the kind of food "suited to it."

It will be noticed that Gould writes that he believes he was *one* of the first. Whether any one had forestalled him in this, I presume we shall never know, but in the absence of evidence to the contrary the honour remains Gould's. One wonders also whether by any chance the bird had been bred in captivity in its native country before this was achieved in Europe, but this is improbable, for Australia in those days was not a likely place for the peaceful cult of foreign birds.

Although this import trade grew rapidly, it was not till about the time (1848) of the appearance of Gould's description in the fifth volume of the Birds of Australia that the bird became widely known, and we find a writer in 1843 (Selby in vol. xviii of Jardine's Naturalist's Library) lamenting how little was then known about the bird, and obviously ignorant of Gould's importation. His name for the bird is the Undulated Nanodeg and he writes (p. 201) as follows:

> "Its habits and mode of life are supposed to resemble those of its
> "congeners, but we unfortunately possess too little information upon
> "these interesting points, the skins we receive from abroad being mostly
> "collected by persons who take no other interest in the pursuit except
> "the mere acquisition of the bird, are rarely accompanied by any notes
> "or observations illustrative of the natural history of the species they
> "belong to."

Its appearance in actual cage-bird literature was somewhat delayed, for in Bechstein's Cage and Chamber Birds, even in an English edition as late as 1853, it is not even mentioned, though by then it must have been fairly well-known, as only two years later (1855) according to Russ. vol. iii., p. 48, the first young were bred in captivity in Berlin by the Grafin von Schwerin. I suppose we may take it that the first breeder in Germany was the first breeder anywhere.

(*To be continued*).

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Correspondence.

EARLY NESTING OF RED COLLARED LORIKEETS.

Sir, My Red-collared Lorikeets have nested again, since I came to town, and have now two babies about five weeks old,

Edinburgh, 7/2/'16, (Miss) E. G. PEDDIE WADDELL.

BIRDS IN THE FIRING LINE,

Sir,—Somewhile ago I sent you a few notes on the Birds in

Northern France and Belgium.

I have not much to add to that, but here are a few more which I hope may be of interest.

One point which struck me most was that actually in the firing line are to be found birds which at home and in normal times would be considered naturally shy and especially "gun-shy." Only a few days ago I saw a pair of Kestrels flying quite low between our own and the German trenches—"no man's land" Two days later, when crossing some fields just before entering the trenches I saw a large bluish-grey bird of prey quartering the ground, and quite unconscious of the noise of the guns. I took it to be a Hen Harrier, but was not close enough to be sure. Tree Sparrows are exceedingly common and are met with in enormous flocks feeding in what were once cultivated fields, There are also quite a number of Partridges both French and English (but more of the former), These too are not in the least alarmed at the noise. I have also seen them in "no man's land." Magpies were still very much in evidence a few days ago. I counted twenty-three in the tops of some tall elms. They are very noisy now. Later in the same evening I noticed a bird perched on the top of a loop-hole. It appeared to be about the size of a Missel Thrush, but with a much shorter tail, and more "cobby" in build. On my approach it flew off and I had no doubt it was a species of Owl. The next day I saw the same bird again, and it proved to be a Little Owl. It was quite fearless and sat in the tree whilst I walked underneath, peering at me the whole time.

The mild weather (January 21st) has brought quite a number of birds. A Missel Thrush has for some days past been singing in some poplars quite close to the trenches.

January 30th I saw a small party of Bramblefinches together with a few Chaffinches just in front of my observation station in the trenches.

February 12th, I saw a hen House Sparrow of a very pale cinnamon colour. It was very noticeable amongst its dingy companions.

February 14th, saw a flock of small Finches feeding on some rough ground. They flew off at my approach. I was unable to identify them. They resembled Brown Linnets more than anything else, but they were not quite as large nor were they Mealy or Lesser Redpolls.

I am giving below a list of the species seen out here since the 12th September, 1915. I rather hoped to have been able to record the presence of some species other than British, but the unidentified species of of Lark or Pipit is the only one. The following is the list:—Magpie, Jay, Hooded Crow, Carrion Crow, Jackdaw, Rook, Starling Missel Thrush, Song Thrush, Blackbird, Fieldfare, Robin, Hedge Accentor, Common Wren, Grey Wagtail, Pied Wagtail, Yellow Wagtail, Skylark; unidentified species of Lark or Pipit described in last notes), Bullfinch, Goldfinch, Greenfinch, Chaffinch, Bramblefinch, Reed Bunting, Yellow Bunting, Tree Sparrow, House Sparrow, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Tree Creeper, Green Woodpecker, Greater-spotted Wood-pecker, Swallow, House Martin, Sand Martin, Turtle Dove, Wood Pigeon, Kestrel, Hen Harrier, Little Owl, Nightjar, English

Partridge, French Partridge, Pheasant, Waterhen, Green Plover.

I am coming home on leave in a few days and am looking forward to seeing some of my old favourites again, and also dipping into the last six numbers of "B.N."

B. HAMILTON SCOTT (Lieut., R.F.A.)

Somewhere in Flanders, February, 1916.

FIELD NOTES, NEW SOUTH WALES.

Sir, The following notes will probably interest many readers.

"Last Sunday while on the mountains, I got up at daylight "(4 a.m.), and went for a ramble down one of the deep gullies to "see what kind of birds were there, but nothing extra choice did I "see. Not anything in the Parrot line. A couple of flocks of about "100 each of Sydney Waxbills, lots of Honey-eaters, including the Blood-"bird (all red), Yellow-tufted; Blue-faced; Yellow-eared; Leather-heads; "and Guill birds, these two latter are very large birds and good eating,

"I saw quite a number of the Little Blue Wren (Superb Warbler) "and two only of Lambert Wrens, both the Blue and Lamberts are "exceedingly pretty and just as delicate, but some day I must have "a try at sending you a pair or so. As I was working my way down "the mountain side scrambling over rocks and through creepers, &c,, "I came upon three young Flame-breasted Robins, which had left the "nest a day or so previously and were all three sitting on a low bush "and it was indeed a pretty sight to see the parent birds feeding them. "The old cock Robin with his extremely bright vermilion breast, jet "black and white body marking, looked some class. Have you ever "heard of any coming your way?

"After leaving the Robins I came across a pair of Coach Whips "(sometimes called fantails), They are a little on the large side, and "they make a noise like a coachman cracking his whip, hence the "name. I also flushed a few Pigeons, but the undergrowth was so "thick I could not see to distinguish the variety. On my way back "to the house, which, by the way, was a devil of a climb, I came upon "a fairly large brown snake about six feet long. I endeavoured to "kill it, but the scrub was so thick I could not get a hit at him; I "was wishing I had brought my gun, if I had I guess I would have "settled him, also a Wallaby, two of which I saw bounding up the "side of the mountain. At one time quite a lot of Lyre birds, fre-"quented this gully, but of late years 'Mr. Fox' has either killed or "hunted them further back into the Mountains. I can't make out why "they introduced the Fox into Australia; they said it was to kill rabbits "and a lot of other things as well. When they can't get rabbits, or "want a change of diet, they try lamb's or sheep's tongues. They "never bother to kill a sheep and have a feed, but just catch 'em by the "throat, and chew in until they get the root of the tongue, then out "comes the tongue, root and all; then the sheep is left to go and die.

"with starvation or blood poison, caused through flies."

I have copied the above just as written, from a letter dated January 25th last, received from my friend in New South Wales.

Sheffield, 1/3/1916. R. COLTON.

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Erratum.

Page 34, line 17, "aviaries, some of the Sugar and Sunbirds could undoubtedly," should read: *aviaries are built on gravel, or gravel and chalk, are in an.*

Editorial.

We much regret that the present issue is such a light one, but with our change of address it has not been possible to accomplish more, but a more bulky issue will appear in April. We should also be glad to know whether members desire some notes on the recent Holborn Show, even though it is now almost ancient history; but members must express their views at once for them to be of any use.

JARDINE'S PIGMY OWLS: Miss E. F. Chawner, in acknowledging the medal for breeding this species, states: "The "little Owls are doing well; the adult pair are preparing to "go to nest again. The young ones and their colouring is "petrel-red on back, with cream-coloured streaks on the "breast." Miss Chawner sends a photo of one of them, but the contrast is not sufficiently strong for reproduction.

NESTING NOTES: Miss Chawner informs me that the Eagle Owls are already incubating a clutch of eggs; and her Waxwings are giving every indication of going to nest.

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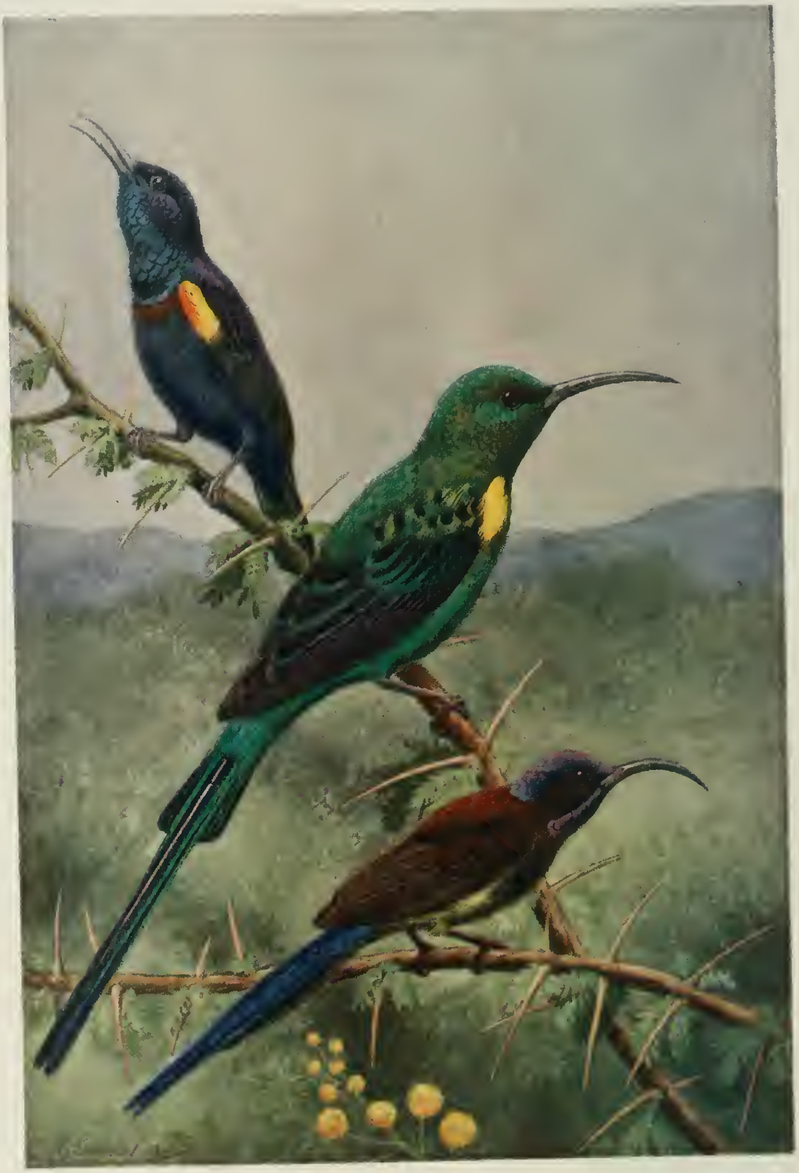
Reviews and Notices of New Books.

"A VETERAN NATURALIST."--Naturalists the world over will be glad to learn that a life of the "Grand Old Man" of the Bird World (the late W. B. Tegetmeier) is about to be published by Messrs. Witherby and Co., 326, High Holborn, London, W.C. It is written by his son-in-law; Mr. E. W. Richardson, who was long associated with him in his literary and social life. The "Life" of the man who collaborated with Darwin; discovered the cylindrical origin of the bee's cell; inaugurated the first Pigeon Flight in England; witnessed operations before chloroform was known; helped to found the Savage Club, and who lived through five reigns, can scarce fail to be of absorbing interest.



From life.

SUNBIRDS.

Purple, Malachite and Black-breasted.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

My Sunbirds.

BY THE HON. MRS. G. BOURKE.

Of the three species drawn by Mr. Goodchild, at the Holborn Hall Show on February 2nd and 3rd, only two belong to me, viz.: the Southern Malachite, and the Black-breasted, but as I have kept the purple I am, by request, briefly noting that also.

PURPLE SUNBIRD (*Arachnechthra asiatica*). A native of India and one of the best songsters of the *Nectariniidae*. The one portrayed on the plate took second prize for Miss Clare, and it was in splendid condition, and singing at intervals on both days.

SOUTHERN MALACHITE SUNBIRD (*Nectarinia famosa*). The bird depicted is one I brought from the Cape two years ago. I had a pair but the hen fell a victim to the extreme heat before I left South Africa. The cock bird has never caused one a moment's anxiety since he got over the long sea journey. Summer and winter he sings a cheery wheeze, and is an interesting and vivacious bird.

His beauty cannot be fully depicted either by brush or pen; neither can it be seen to full advantage in a cage, he needs the play of light on his metallic green plumage to bring out his full beauty. In his summer quarters, a garden aviary; it is a grand sight to see him chasing gnats and other minute winged insects, the ever changing hues of his glistening garment, as he wheels and twists about the aviary in pursuit of his prey is a sight long to be remembered.

In the winter he occupies a large cage (3ft. long), and comes out each morning for a fly round the room and enjoys a bath before returning of his own accord, to the cage.

Black-breasted Sunbird (*Aethopyga saturata*). This bird is rather a recent acquisition; he is a young bird and I have not yet seen the full beauty of his plumage; at the Show also he was not seen to advantage as he was not quite through the moult.

Like the preceding species he is not seen to advantage in a cage. It needs the setting of a garden aviary to bring out his full beauty.

A glance at the plate, will indicate this, but with a coloured plate descriptions of the plumage are not necessary.

Sunbirds make charming pets, they are vivacious, interesting and exhibit a fearless confidence in those who attend to their wants.

All three species are treated alike: They get syrup—Nestle's milk, honey, and Mellin's food mixed to the required consistency with boiling water, grapes and a few insects.

◆

Foreign and British Birds at the Holborn Town Hall.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

This Show was promoted by the L.P.O.S., N.B.B. & M.C., and F.B.E.L., and was confined to members of these societies. As a rule F.B.C. only concerns itself with *open* shows, but as nearly all the exhibitors in the Foreign Section were also members of the F.B.C., and in response to several requests, an exception is made to the extent of some comment of the birds staged.

The hall was quite inadequate for the number of birds staged, preventing proper grouping of classes, or the placing of birds in viewable positions, rendering a proper comparison of individual merits almost impossible.

Thirty classes were allocated to the Foreign Section, attracting some 194 entries.

Parrot-tribe: These were divided into nine classes with a total entry of 60. Among them there was really nothing calling for special comment, all the species being well known to my readers. With some of the placings the writer did not agree, the Rev. G. H. Raynor's team meeting with rather hard luck; and it will suffice if the winners are named with their exhibits; in the sequence of the respective classes

First: J. Frostick—Double-fronted Amazon; Eclectus ♀; King Parrakeet—; A. Silver—Peach-faced Lovebirds, Malaccan Long-tailed Parrakeet—; Miss A. B. Smyth White-winged Parrakeets—; A. J. Shipton; Green Budgerigars—; C. T. Maxwell—Red-fronted Lories, Hooded Parrakeets.

Second—A. Silver—Salvin's Amazon, Cockateels; C. T. Maxwell—Black-cheeked Lovebirds, Ornate Lorikeet; Miss A. B. Smyth—Meyer's Parrots; A. J. Shipton—Green Budgerigars; W. Shore Bailey—Blossom-headed Parrakeets. L. M. Wade—Crimson-wing Parrakeets; J. Frostick—Red-rump Parrakeets.

Third L. M. Wade—Cuban Parrot; L. W. Hawkins—Red-faced Lovebirds; J. Frostick—Cockateels, Green Budgerigars, Crimson Lory; A. Silver—Mueller's Parrot (♀), Blue-bonnet Parrakeet.

Some good and attractive specimens of Senegal Parrots, Ceram Lory, Swainson's Lorikeets; Mealy Rosellas, Pennant's, Adelaide, and Red Rosella Parrakeets were also staged.

COLOUR VARIETIES: Only Yellow Budgerigars, White Java Sparrows, and Bengalese were exhibited.

1 A. J. Shipton—Yellow Budgerigar; 2 J. Goodall—White Javas; 3 A. Silver—Bengalese.

COMMON MANNIKINS: All well known species, but in marvellous form.

1 and 2 A. Silver—Magpie Mannikins, and Grey Java Sparrows; 3 W. Buckingham White-headed Mannikins.

WEAVERS AND WHYDAHS: Only four entries, one missed the gorgeous colouration usually associated with this class.

1 and 3 A. Silver—Ultramarine Combasou, and Yellowish Weaver; 2 C. T. Maxwell Jackson's Whydah, might have been first.

CERTAIN COMMON SPECIES: An attractive lot, all in wonderful trim.

1 and 3 A. Silver—Combasou, and Saffron Finches; 2 W. Buckingham—Indian Silverbills.

Zebra and Ribbon Finches and African Silverbills also staged.

GOULDIAN FINCHES: These beautiful favourites of foreign bird-keepers were a very brilliant lot. A really good Red-head, belonging to the Rev. G. H. Raynor, unfortunately escaped from its cage and was not recaptured till judging was over, otherwise it would undoubtedly have been among the placed birds.

1 C. Row—pair R.H., hen, very fine; 2 Mrs. Montague Scott—B.H., 3 A. Silver—R.H.

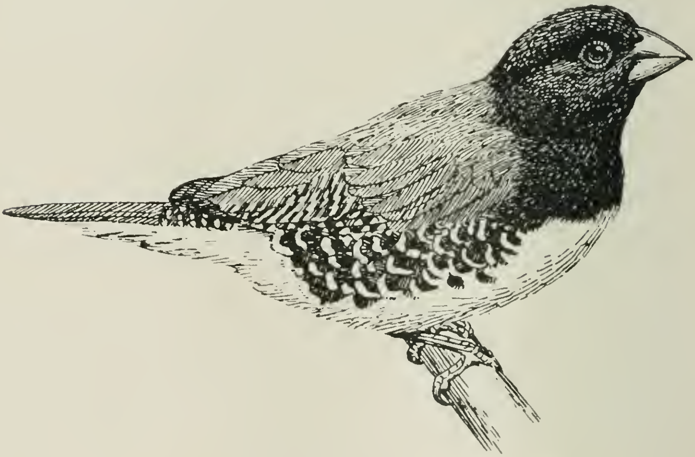
PARROT FINCHES, ETC.: All four exhibits were of exceptional merit, but all are well known.

1 C Row- Fire-tailed Finches; 2 Hon. Mrs. McLaren Morrison—Rainbow Bunting 3 A Silver—Ruficauda Finch.

GRASSFINCHES, ETC.: A really exquisite group, among which the writer was pleased to see once more the pretty Rufous-backed Mannikin, but evidently new arrivals.

1 and 2 A. Silver -Chestnut-breasted and Yellow-rumped Finches; 3 C. T. Maxwell -L.T. Grassfinches.

Some exquisite Diamond Finches also staged.



Rufous-backed Mannikin.

FIREFINCHES AND CERTAIN WAXBILLS: All freely imported species, but they were a sight to feast one's eyes upon—their chaste beauty commanding attention.

1 and 3 Hon Mrs. McLaren Morrison Gold-breasted Waxbills, and Lavender Finches; 2 A. Silver—Com. Firefinches.

COMMON AVADAVATS AND WAXBILLS: Another array of exquisite beauty, all perfect, yet the winning pair of St. Helena's well ahead.

1 and 2 F. Howe—St. Helena Waxbills; 3 A. Silver—O.C. Waxbills.

ALL OTHER WAXBILLS: These rarer species called for close examination, the running being very keen—all well known.

1 C. T. Maxwell—Violet-ear; 2 P. Arnott—Black-faced; 3 Mrs. M. Scott—Violet-ears. A good pair of Blue-breasts also shown.

CARDINALS: Too well known for comment, save to remark that all were apparently colour-fed.

1, 2, and 3 A. Silver—Virginian, Green, and Red-crested.

ALL OTHER SEED-EATERS:

1 E. Hathaway—Sepoy Finch; 2 and 3 L. M. Wade—Mexican Rose-finch and St Helena Seedeater.

DOVES, QUAILS, ETC.: Only Doves were entered as under:

1 A. Silver—Emerald; 2 and v.h.c. R. Mannering—Diamond, and Masked; 3 J. Frostick—Peaceful.

SUNBIRDS, ETC.: Only Sunbirds staged, the rarest being the Black-breasted, but its moult was not yet complete—see coloured plate.

1 and 3 Hon. Mrs. G. Bourke—Malachite and Black-breasted Sunbirds; 2 Miss L. Clare—Purple Sunbird.

SUGARBIRDS, ETC.: Beautiful but well known.

1 and 2 A. Silver—Yellow-winged Sugarbirds, and Indian Zosterops; 3 and v.h.c. P. Arnott—Y.W. Sugarbird and African Zosterops:

ALL SPECIES TANAGERS: Only a shadow of what the Tanager class was in pre-war times, but all four entrants were in good form.

1, 2, and 3, Hon. Mrs. McLaren Morrison—Black, Blue and Scarlet. Good, but patriarchal Archbishop was also staged.

CROWS, TROUPIALS, ETC.: Certainly one of the most interesting classes of the section. It was a mere matter of rarity between the prize-winners, all of whom have been seen on the bench previously, and all were exquisites of their kind.

1 J. Frostick—Yucatan Jay; 2 A. Silver—pair Purple-headed Glossy Starlings; 3 B. T. Stewart—Wandering Tree-Pie.

Other species staged were: Pileated Jay, Mandarin and Malabar Mynahs, Yellow-breasted Troupial, and Wagler's Hangnest.

SMALL INSECTIVOROUS SPECIES: this class was cancelled.

ALL OTHER SPECIES: Only three entries, and all interesting birds, but the first prize winner was in its wrong class, making very hard lines indeed for Mr. Stewart's rare Bare-eyed Thrush, which was in perfect feather and condition. For this *contretemps* the writer understands that neither the owner nor the judge was responsible.

1 Miss F. Barlow-Massicks—Trinidad Thrush (in its wrong class); 2 B. T. Stewart—Bare-eyed Thrush, should have been first; 3 Miss A. B. Smyth—Himalayan Whistling Thrush.

Himalayan Whistling Thrush.

HYBRIDS, ETC.: An interesting class, of which I had better give a full list.

3rd. Squamata × Californian Quail, W. Shore-Baily.
3rd Necklaced × Senegal Dove, W. Shore-Baily.
1st Magpie Mannikin × Bengalese, L. M. Wade.*
v.h.c. Magpie Mannikin × Bengalese, L. M. Wade.*
c. Grey Singingfinch × Linnet, A. J. Shipton.
2nd St. Helena Seedeater × Linnet, A. J. Shipton.
h.c. Red-headed × Ribbon Finch, A. Silver.
h.c. Green Singingfinch × Canary, A. Silver.

**Figured in last Vol. of "B.N."*

In the writer's opinion, the two most interesting hybrids were the Quail and Dove which are his choice for first and second. However, all were really good specimens of their kind, with their parentage about equally represented.

BRITISH SECTION.

HYBRIDS: Almost every cross of British Finch × Canary was staged in their respective classes, and some very beautiful birds were among the 51 entries.

HYBRIDS BETWEEN BRITISH BIRDS: The entries were 24, and included some striking, beautiful, and interesting birds. Interest appeared to centre round the three birds, said to be Song Thrush × Blackbird, which the judge passed as pure Thrushes. The writer closely examined them and though the Thrush parentage was certainly dominant, he is of the opinion that they are hybrids and that as they become older the beaks and eye ceres of the specimens shown will place this beyond doubt. The Finch crosses produced some really beautiful birds, with parentage quite distinctly shown in respective plumages. I will name a few.

Goldfinch × Bullfinch.
Redpoll × Bullfinch.
Linnet × Bullfinch.
Greenfinch × Chaffinch.
Bramblefinch × Chaffinch
Goldfinch × Siskin.
Goldfinch × Redpoll and *vice versa.*
Goldfinch × Greenfinch.
Goldfinch × Linnet.
Greenfinch × Redpoll.

These were all birds to arrest the attention, even of those who do not approve of *mongrels.*

HARDBILLS: These were legion, almost every British Finch being represented, though some of them, in spite of grand health and plumage, were not pleasing to those who prefer natural to the artificial beauty of colour feeding.

SOFTBILLS: These were a most interesting lot and demonstrated how fully the keeping of birds in cages is now understood and practised. A list of the species staged will probably be of interest.

Song Thrush.
Missel Thrush.
Fieldfare.
Blackbird.
Nightingale.
Blackcap.
Reed Warbler.
Dartford Warbler.
Common Wren.
Tree Pipit.
Skylark
Shorelark.

Yellow Wagtail.
Blue-headed Wagtail
Chough.
Magpie.
Red-backed Shrike (♀).
Nuthatches.
Bearded Reedlings.
Long-tailed Tit.
Waxwing.

ALBINOS, ETC: Only four entries, the clear Lutino Yellow Bunting (1st) being the pick of the lot. The others were: Albino Chaffinch (4th), Goldfinch (2nd), White Blackbird (3rd)

The writer hopes these rough notes will not only record the event in our Journal, but prove of some little general interest. The cramped space made the usual comparison of the exhibits impossible and enforced the crude style in which the foregoing is penned.

◆

The Bare-eyed Thrush.

BY THEO. STEWART.

This bird has been aptly described as "quite a curiosity."

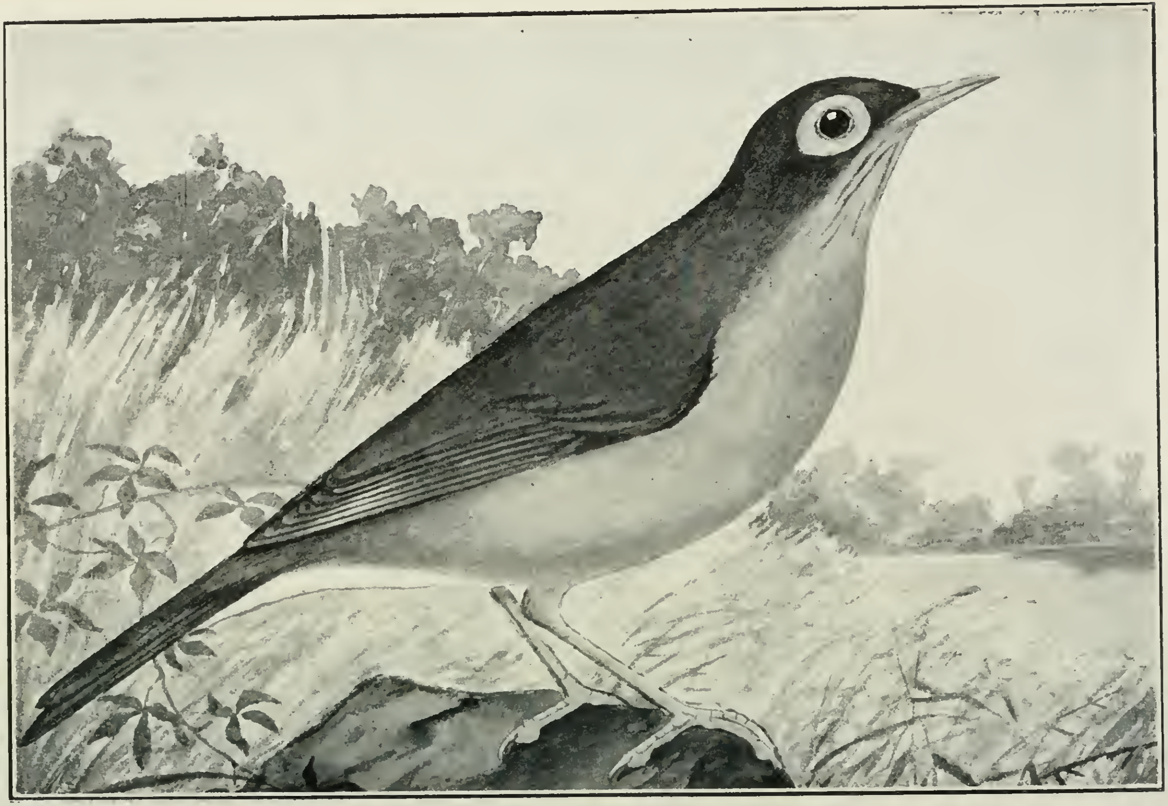
To those unfortunate people who only see beauty in gaudy colouration the Bare-eyed Thrush will make no appeal. He is clad in sombre colours, only attracting attention by his brilliant eyes with their surround of bare yellow-skin, from which he derives his name.

He is a denizen of South America.

He was sent to me immediately on his arrival in this country and was bought "on sight." Though purchased at a stiff figure I have never regretted it, for the bird is absolutely unique.

All who have been privileged to see him, have noted with admiration the bold confidant air of the Bare-eye, for in disposition he is quite fearless and will boldly attack friend and foe alike.

As a songster he has his merits, though his call note is somewhat peculiar; not unlike the ba'a of a sheep. Many of his notes are low and gurgling. Unfortunately he is rarely heard to advantage, as the loud, splendid voice of his immedi-



From a painting by H. Norman

The Bare-eyed Thrush.

ate neighbour, a Mocking-Bird, drowns all his efforts; and the Bare-eye will only sing in competition, never solus.

In regard to his show career I will only here remark that if the suggestion once made by a famous aviculturist, that bird rarities should be labelled as such at Shows as a guide for the judge, could be carried out it would be better both for owner and bird! And that reminds me—one day a visitor broke through our lines and insisted on seeing the birds. He passed all in silence until he came to the subject of these notes; then his face lit up—"Ah!" said he "I don't know much about birds but I do know what this is—*it's a Cuckoo*"! I shook hands with him for I recognised a judge in embryo.

The Bare-eye is not difficult to cater for in the way of diet. A rich insectile mixture, plenty of grapes and a few mealworms daily, while a piece of sesame cake, of which all my Softbills are very fond, delights the very cockles of his heart.

He is always in perfect show-form. Has a cold tub daily, and is as happy and free from care as only a bird can be.

Of all my Thrushes, gorgeous and rare as some of them are, I give preference to the Bare-eye as the gem of the collection, may he continue to adorn it, until that dreadful day when he leaves the world behind.

◆

Some Colony Birds.

Reprinted from "TIMEHRI" (The Journal of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana), May, 1915; with compliments and thanks to the Author and Editors.—ED. "B.N."

PART II.

[We published a compilation from PART I. in *Bird Notes* for 1912 which somewhat suffered from abridgement, consequently we are reprinting PART II. *in extenso*, including at the end of each instalment the popular names by which the birds are known in England. We feel assured that the article will be of general interest—many of the birds dealt with are, or have been, kept in English aviaries.—Ed. *B.N.*]

As I concluded my first article (Dec., 1912) by a description of the Twa-twa, I may well take up the thread again by giving some account of its near relative the Tua-tua. The Tua-tua (pronounced tower-tower) (*Oryzoborus torridus*), vulgarly called the bastard twa-twa, or the Twa-twa's slave, proclaims at once its near kinship to the Twa-twa. It is, however, neither so large nor so elegant in form; and moreover, from the lower part of the breast to the tail, it is dark red. From this feature it evidently derives its specific of *torridus*, toasted or scorched. I suppose it derives its vulgar name of bastard twa-twa from the mistaken notion, that it is a cross between that bird and some other inferior type. In nature, however, hybrids never occur. I suppose again that it is called Twa-twa's slave on account of its comparative inferiority.

It has a large beak, though not so relatively large as the Twa-twa's, and being black instead of slaty white is not so conspicuous. There is a white stripe on the primary feathers, but it is almost covered by the wing coverts. The wings underneath are white also. It has the same habit of whisking his tail from side to side and of spreading it out; and the tail is full and broad: I had almost said bushy. As in the case of the Twa-twa, the hen and the young birds are a warm brown, darker on the wings and tail; it is thus almost indistinguishable from several other brown hen Finches; but the beak which has a ridge or keel where it joins the skull above, is unmistakable. The single note of the Tua-tua is exactly that of the Twa-twa, and its song, though not so loud, is perhaps more musical. But is is not such a persistent singer.

It is an amiable aviary bird and the one in my possession returned to the cage when I chanced to let it escape.

THE FIRE-FINCH. One of the most beautiful of our Finches has the awkward name of "Scarlet-crested Finch" (*Coryphospingus cristatus*). I prefer to call it the *Fire-finch* and it justifies this title, being very much the colour of a slumbering ember. In size it is not so large as our Sparrow; but it is much more graceful in form, hence its generic name, *coryphospingus*, Greek, "the small slender bird."

The body of the bird, except the back is a dull crimson-lake merging into pink at the throat; the back, wings and tail, are dark warm brown. Around the eye, in lieu of eyelashes are tiny pinkish, almost white feathers which give the bird the air of wearing spectacles. The crest, which, however, he seldom erects, is in the shape of a half-closed fan, with the broad side in front; it is bright, silken, scarlet, with the outer edges almost black. Its note is a long, indrawn, almost hiss-like, monotone: *ts—s*. Its song, though it rarely sings in a cage is a see-saw on two notes and can hardly be called beautiful. But its colour and lively disposition make it a desirable cage-bird. It is never seen in a cage, however, for the people of the colony think a bird "no good unless it can sing, sir."

It has a pleasing habit of springing up perpendicularly and dropping down again like a bouncing ball; or of throwing itself upwards towards the bars of the cage, clinging for a moment and then flinging itself back again. A pair I had would sit for a long while by the side of a small mirror, and seemed very annoyed when a pair of small Doves took up that position; they would go up to them and try to hustle them out of the coveted spot.

Coryphospingus is not easily tamed though when once kept in a cage will generally return when set at liberty. It is charming when caught in the hand, erecting its flaming crest and uttering cries of protestation. The crest when at rest is simply a streak of bright crimson.

The hen is a modified replica of the cock and has no crest.

The Fire-finch is not uncommon in town, but being very shy is not often observed.

THE CREOLE CANARY. The Creole Canary, or Canary Grass-bird (*Sycalis arvenis*) is very like that variety of the domestic Canary which in England we call the "Lizard," though much smaller; and I venture the opinion that it is, indeed, the ancestor of the now world-wide favourite cage-bird. Above, its feathers are olive-brown, edged with lighter colour and not unlike those of the English Sparrow; its throat, breast, and vent are a slightly-greenish yellow, as also above and below the eye, merging into a greener tint on the cheeks. The hen is the same but not so bright. It readily becomes tame in a cage (which is another argument in favour of the above theory) and breeds freely. A cock bird I have in my aviary made love to a hen Tua-tua, and I have no doubt they would have gone to nest had I put them in a cage by themselves. But I dislike hybrids of every kind. Its wooing was delightful. It would fly from side to side of the aviary and remain before its beloved object on suspended wing like a heavy humming bird, and all this time would utter loud notes of self-admiration as if to say, "*Look at this, look at this! See what I can do!*" Then it would alight and pour forth its song. The song, though lively enough, is stereotyped. It might easily be reproduced in a mechanical toy. It is wanting in variety and its gamut is short. Beginning with a few staccato notes it gradually increases the pace, rising by semitones ; then it trills, still increasing the pace ; then ends abruptly as if out of breath. But it begins again immediately for it is an incessant singer when it once takes up its song. In a cage with other birds it is interfering and inclined to be masterful. It should therefore be kept alone.

THE WHITE-THROATED FINCH OR RING-NECK. The White-throated Finch or Grass-bird (*Spermophila lineata*), commonly called the Ring-Neck, is the largest of three Black-and-White Finches, often mistaken for one another. Rightly are these small Finches called Grass-birds (*Spermophila*, seed-lover) for they feed exclusively on the seed of the larger kinds of grasses, plucking the seed as it grows on the stem and often performing many amusing acrobatic antics in the process. Unlike most other Finches they even feed their young on the same diet, having however, partly digested it in their own crop. Most other Finches, as well known, feed their nestlings on insects, and thus our common House-Sparrow got itself transported to happier climes by those who had that amount of nature knowledge which proved a dangerous thing, in the hope that it would clear the land of insect pests. Alas, in these happier climes, it devours more grain in harvest time than is compensated for by its insect destroying propensity in the nesting season; and it increases apace.

The White-Throat or Ring-Neck is a stumpy bird with a large head; it is like a cock Sparrow in form though generally smaller. The head, back, wings, and tail, are dull black; the throat, white; the breast, vent, and rump, light grey. There is a ring of white running from the ends of the throat feathers around the neck and broadening on the shoulders, but not meeting at the back. It is almost as if he had a white beard the ends of which were blown over the shoulders. The white feathers of the throat do not quite merge into the grey of the breast, there being ridges of black feathers from the shoulders and almost meeting as they taper to a point in front. There are also two stripes of white across the upper part of the wings: the first, along the upper wing coverts; and the second across the lower wing coverts and extending along the bases of the primaries as far as the second feather. The hen is a uniform olive-brown, darker on the wings and tail. There is a light brown bar on the wings, corresponding to the upper white stripe of her mate. It is distinguished from all other brown hen Finches by the shape and colour of the beak, which is black, blunt, and rounded, like a typical Jewish nose.

The song of the White-throat is a bubbling cascade of music, sweet and melodious. This fully compensates for its inelegance of form; and he is a continual singer. It is extremely fond of a bath, and, I may say, of cage life, for it will return again and again if set at liberty. He is amiably disposed toward other birds; but, of course, does not sing so persistently as when kept alone. Many song birds in an aviary will not sing at all.

THE MOUSTACHE FINCHES. There are two species of these birds, so-called from the more or less moustache-shaped lines of white running from the corners of the mouth. They remind me rather of mutton-chop whiskers. In length they are a little less than the White-Throat, but they are beautiful in shape, being slender and having a longer and more shapely tail; the head also is small and neat.

The commoner species is the *Spermophila lineola*. In this, the head, wings, throat, and tail are velvet black; the breast, greyish white, fading into white on the vent. Besides the so-called moustache, there is a white bar running along the crown of the head from the beak, and a small white patch on the wings, that is, on the upper part of the primaries. The under-wings are white, and the secondaries are partly white though the colour does not appear externally; the rump is grey. The hen is a light Olive-brown, lighter still below; the beak, horn colour and not black.

The single note of the bird is loud and like the chirp of a Sparrow; but it has a pretty song of about fifteen notes; not, however, so varied as that of the White-throat. It is a charming cage-bird, easily tamed and amiable in disposition

The other Moustache Finch (*Spermophila ocellata*) is much rarer and is not distinguished by the unitiated from the foregoing. However, it is not so slim; there is no line of white over the head; and along the sides are round spots upon a ground of black fading into grey. From this latter feature it derives it specific name of *ocellata*, that is, "eyed" or marked with eye-like spots.

THE BLACK-THROATED SACKI. There are several species of Tanagers rightly named *euphonia*, "sweet-voiced," The smallest (*Euphonia minuta*) is a tiny bird hardly three inches in length, from tip to tip of beak and tail. The tail of all these birds is short, extending very little beyond the under-tail coverts, and their general contour is Swallow-like, being round and full. The head, back, wings, and tail of the *minuta* are deep blue, with a green sheen on the primaries; the throat is deeper blue rather than black. The breast is a rich yellow, the under-tail coverts white, as are also the under-wings. The forehead is yellow and gives the bird the air of wearing a jockey cap with a square peak turned back. The bill, more like a Swallow's than a Finch's, is slaty blue. The sexes are alike, or nearly so. The bird soon becomes accustomed to a cage, for, in spite of its small size, it is very intelligent and fully alive to the fitness of things. Held gently by the feet and stroked on the back, it may be trained to pour forth its musical song: *chic-chic-cheek-cheek.* It has a loud note for for so small a bird. Its ordinary song sounds something like this: "*thet-thet-thit, thit, thet, wee, wee, chic-chic-chic, are you going away? don't go away, don't go away!*" and all the while it flips its wings and turns from side to side. It is, of course, a fruit-eating bird, and thrives on yellow plantain. I should prefer to call it the Jockey-sacki.

THE BUCK-CANARY. *Euphonia violacea*, or the Buck-canary, as it is vulgarly called, or in more polite society the Louis d'or, is much larger than the Black-throat, being fully four inches, bill and tail included. Like *minuta* it is blue above and yellow below, but the yellow extends from tail to beak, and the yellow of the forehead is rounded above. The hen is a dull green, lighter below. Though it is called *violacea* there is no violet about either sex. Like its smaller cousin, it is a charming bird and readily takes to cage life. A pair I once had actually fed two callow Cashew-Sackis which I put into their cage, having no other at hand at the moment. They did it in a business-like way, eructating the food from their little throats. Unfortunately they took toll in the shape of feathers. I was surprised to see the young birds becoming bare on neck and back, and more surprised to see their foster-parents by turns deliberately and calmly pluck out the feathers and after turning them about in their beaks for a while swallow them!

Closely allied is the *Euphonia cayana*, or Yellow-sided Sacki; being of the same size and form, but in colour a uniform dark, steely blue, with a yellow patch of feathers on each side of the breast, partly covered by the shoulder of the wings. It is much rarer, and is seldom obtainable. I have only seen one specimen in a cage. I am told that its habits are exactly similar.

THE YELLOW-VENTED SACKI. Allied to the charming *Euphonia* is a group rightly called *Calliste*, that is, most beautiful. I described one of them in my former article, the *Calliste cayana*, or Black-faced Tanager. Among these, the *Calliste flaviventris*, or Gold-finch, as it is erroneously called, ranks high in point of beauty. I doubt whether it ever ventures into Georgetown, being shy and retiring in its habits. I first saw it in the garden of the rest house at Pickersgill in the Pomeroon River, and obtained a specimen that was caught at Malgretout. It lived contentedly for several months in a cage and might still have been alive but for the carelessness of a servant.

The bird is smaller than the Blue Sacki, being only four-and-a-half inches in length. The head, throat, and rump are purple; the back, wings and tail, velvet black; the black of the back extends in a peak to the top of the head with pleasing effect. The breast and belly are bath-brick yellow and there are two irregular chains of spots or rosettes along the sides but almost covered by the wings. The shoulders of the wings are half-moons of bright turquoise blue, changing into emerald green in certain lights, and along the lower border is a scalloped edging of purple, the centre of each scallop being jet black. The general appearance when it flutters about the cage is so butterfly-like that I venture to call it Butterfly-wing in preference to the Yellow-vented Sacki!

The only note I have heard it utter is a pretty *link-link* like the jingle of a silver chain.

Flaviventris is as amiable as it is beautiful. When I introduced a Palm Sacki into its cage as companion, my butterfly-wing evinced the greatest signs of pleasure, flitting about, uttering its pretty note, and caressing the stranger with its bill. It was a case of Beauty and the Beast, for the sacki was one of the dirty-greenish-brown variety.

MOCKING-BIRDS OR HANG-NESTS. The Mocking-birds are, like the Tanagers, allied to the Finches; unlike them however, they have affinity with the Starlings and the Mynahs of India; and this latter affinity is more apparent. The way in which they stalk about and pry into other people's affairs, betrays at once their Starling character. Let me say at once that though these birds well deserve their name, they have no affinity with the Mocking-bird of North

America.*

I have been fortunate enough to rear several yellow-back Mocking-Birds, from the nest. It is difficult to do so. All kinds of food must be offered and much patience and skill is required in administering it; for they have a wonderful way of ejecting what they have received, as well as of rudely declining the choicest viands. Sometimes I have had to do what the Government at home has been so much blamed for doing in regard to the obstinate hunger-strike suffragette. I have had to forcibly feed them. It is some time before they become accustomed to eat what one can supply them in place of the seeds and insects of their native habitat.

THE YELLOW-BACK. The Yellow-back Mocking-Bird (*Cassicus persicus*) is a splendid fellow. Fully nine inches in length, he is glossy black, with the exception of the rump, vent, and under-tail coverts, which are golden yellow; there is also a longitudinal bar of yellow on the wings. The feathers are trim, sleek and hard. The slightly curved bill, an inch-and-a-half in length, is also yellow and the upper beak or maxilla is joined to the forehead by a rounded projection after the manner of the beak of a mediæval helmet; hence its name *Cassicus* from Latin *cassis*, a helmet. A striking feature is the eye, the iris of which is bright blue. His gait is stately and altogether he has a military bearing. The hen is like her lord but much smaller.

Yellow-backs live in colonies and at nesting time much noise and racket goes on. The nests are wonderful structures of dried palm-fibre woven with great skill, and hung from the ends of the branches of a tree, in size and shape like Indian clubs. The eggs, two in number, are dull white with a few small dots or lines of purple-red. They are comparatively small, being only the size of Starlings.' The name of "hang-nests" given these birds is by no means discriminative, for many birds in the colony build nests after this fashion. The ordinary cry of the bird begins with a sound like the creaking of a bough in the wind, and changes into the hollow sound of a Swiss cow-bell.

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*Note.—The real Mocking-Bird is the *Mimus polyglottus,* a grey bird the size of a large Thrush, with affinities both to Thrushes and Wrens.

A high thorny tree is generally chosen for their colony; but not always so. At the Catholic Mission ground at Morawhanna is a large colony on a small mango tree. Do these birds realize that the land all about is marshy and that, in consequence, the tree is almost unapproachable? It would seem so.

By an infallible instinct these birds always choose a tree on which marabuntas or fierce ants, or both, have already established themselves. The marabuntas nests often hang among those of the birds; but there seems a perfect truce between them. The male bird at home cuts a ridiculous figure. Standing in a prominent place, he lowers his head and tail, and ruffles up the yellow feathers of his back and all the while he cries in hollow tones: "*Just look at me*! *Just look at me*! *Don't you admire*? *Am I not fine*?" He waits a little while for admiration, and then begins again.

He well deserves the name of Mocking-Bird, for there is no bird in the forest he will not imitate, and thus often deceives the sportsman and specimen collector.

Some time ago in the North West District, I had occasion during a missionary journey to spend a night at the Rest-house at the mouth of the Baramani River. I had no sooner showed myself at the window that I was subjected to a noisy badinage from, as I supposed, a number of birds on a tree close by. "*Hi, hi*! *ah*! *ah*! *ya-ah*! *What are you doing there*?" The voices seemed to say, "*I don't like the look of you at all*! *Go away*! *We don't want you—aha—yah—yah*!" I looked in amazement. There was only one Yellow-Back, perhaps some old bachelor, but he was skipping from branch to branch and pouring out his full vocabulary from different coigns of vantage.

The Yellow-Back makes an attempt at a song; but it is more interesting than musical. There are mutterings and splutterings, whisperings and gurglings, and occasionally a full round note; but the whole is not inspiring. It is like a clown trying to be sentimental. But he is worth domesticating on account of his beauty and knowing ways. One I have now will do what in gymnastic language I must call the hand-grind—a bird's feet are partly hands—he will swing round his perch, holding on by the feet, in the vain endeavour to catch his tail! His feet are large and powerful. I am told he can be taught to speak. Mine will sometimes bark like a dog on the approach of a stranger.

THE RED-BACK. The Red-Back Mocking-Bird (*Cassicus affinis*) is closely related in form and habits to the yellow-back. It is, however, entirely black with the exception of the rump which is rich, bright, crimson; the colour of red port wine seen against the light. The black feathers have also a blue sheen. It is rarer and shier than the Yellow-back and is not so intelligent. I have never seen it in a cage. A couple I tried to rear did not thrive; but the conditions were difficult.

It has a long, swift flight, and then the crimson of its back gleams out. It may sometimes be found sharing the Colony of the Yellow-backs; but the two never inter-breed. Nature abhors mixed marriages of all kinds.

[Below we give English equivalents for names used in this article.—Ed "B.N."].

Twa-Twa=Thick-billed Seed-Finch.
Tua-Tua=Torrid Seed-Finch.
Fire-Finch=Red-crested Finch.
Creole Canary=Yellowish Finch.
White-throated Finch or Ring-neck=Lineated Finch.
Moustache Finches=Lined Finch and Black-headed Lined Finch respectively.
Black-throated Sacki=Dwarf Euphonia.
Buck-Canary=Violet Euphonia.
Yellow-sided Sacki=Black-faced Euphonia.
Yellow-vented Sacki=Yellow-bellied Tanager.
Yellow-Back=Yellow-rumped Hangnest.
Red-Back=Red-rumped Hangnest.

(*To be continued*).

All about "Ari"—A Herring Gull.

BY FRANK DAWSON-SMITH.

Before joining the army I paid a farewell visit to the North Western Highlands of Scotland, and found a temporary abode in a small village facing one of those glorious sea lochs, for which this part is justly renowned. On most of the days, during my stay, I sailed out to the numerous islets and rocks, seal shooting, duck shooting, or perchance viewing the charming scenery and the rainbow-hued sunsets. Some days I devoted to walking and exploring the mountainous country inland, and it was on one of these days that we—"Ari*" and I—met. This memorable meeting took place in the middle of the village road, without formal introduction. His loud and persistent "call" attracted my attention to a young herring gull, which was evidently hungry and demanding food I stooped down, and held out my hand, and to my great surprise, he ran to me, and placed his beak in my outstretched palm, without the slightest hesitation, looking with inquiring eyes into mine. He declined to leave me, and from that moment we became sworn pals.

"ARI." *Photo by F. Dawson-Smith.*

Naturally I had to make some inquiries before confiscating my find." I learned that "Ari" belonged to a little boy in the village, whose father had brought the bird from Luinga Mhor, a small rocky isle two miles off the coast. "Ari" was quite a baby when captured, and only a few weeks old when we so unceremoniously introduced ourselves. The little boy was very fond of his pet, and if "Ari" wandered on the road, and into consequent danger of being run over by a passing vehicle, the little chap would toddle out, pick "Ari" up in his small chubby arms, and laboriously carry him to safety. The gull was quite contented to be nursed like a kitten. He could, had he wished, have wandered away for ever, as the Loch was quite near. He often swam in its waters, but always returned after a bath and a splash. After a time his fate hung in the balance. His frquent "call" began to annoy the boy's father and the man tried to drive the bird away. This proved futile, as "Ari" always came back. Thereupon, having become a nuisance in the eyes of the "powers that be," he was no longer welcome, and sentence of death was the verdict he received. My timely intervention thus solved the difficulty, and saved poor "Ari's" little life. The little boy was comforted by the knowledge that his pet was not to be killed, but was going to a beautiful new home far away. That and a gift for his money box completed the transaction and "Ari" thereupon passed into my possession, greatly to our mutual satisfaction. Our further acquaintance had to be postponed, as I had arranged to join my regiment at once, therefore I gave careful instructions as to "Ari's" transit to fresh quarters. He was placed in a large, roomy tea-chest, with a thick bed of dry seaweed and a plentiful supply of fish, and dispatched on his travels on his long journey down from Scotland to Buckinghamshire. He duly arrived safe and sound and none the worse for his adventures. He was removed from his prison, and placed on the lawn, and soon gave audible appreciation of his new experiences. He also gave unmistakable proof that he was hungry and a considerable quantity of fish chopped fine, disappeared before he ceased gobbling. Then he ran to the Waders' pool beside the lawn and enjoyed a thoroughly welcome bath and splash after which he looked round as much as to say, "Very good.

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*Pronounced "Ah-ree."

That's all right. What next?" Now, "Ari' is possessed of a large bump of inquisitiveness and likes to know "Who's who?" and "What's what?" So he started off on a voyage of discovery. First he explored the house, upstairs and down, followed by a laughing and admiring crowd of spectators. *En route* he encountered the cat and dog and promptly introduced himself to their notice by pulling their respective tails. Both animals protested against the indignity to which they had to submit, but "Ari" laughed and ran on as if it were a matter of no concern. Doubtless he advised them to "keep their wool on," but he didn't care. However, they became firm friends the same day, and it is an interesting sight to a casual observer to see the dog, cat and Gull, sitting close together in happy companionship. One of "Ari's" wings is clipped as a precaution against flight and consequent loss. He would not wilfully go, but his inordinate curiosity compels him to explore far and near, and he might easily fall a victim

"ARI." *Photo by F. Dawson-Smith.*

to a predatory fox if allowed to pursue his investigations too far afield.

Duty compelled my absence for many months, and it was therefore a considerable time before I saw "Ari" again. Then I was granted "leave of absence" and went home. A good deal of my "leave was taken up in writing" out a few articles, which, if our good Editor deems worthy, may find insertion in "Bird Notes" during the coming months. Of course all my feathered friends had to be interviewed and petted first, and I at once renewed my acquaintance with "Ari." He came running to me of his own accord, his voice, persistent and not to be denied, demanding food. I gave him several choice tit-bits before his tones became "Smaller by degrees and beautifully less."

He proved as tame as ever when I picked him up, and scratched his head, and stroked his plumage.

His favourite point of vantage is a green seat on the lawn. He perches on the top bar, and keeps a watchful and lively eye on his surroundings. He is as good as a watch-dog in this respect. Nothing escapes his notice, and nobody can go up the drive, or cross the lawn without being spotted by "Ari," and he lets all whom it may concern, know of the advent of friend or strangers, with his usual loud and penetrating "call."

The photographs depict "Ari" in several positions. In one he may be seen calling his loudest for food. In another he appears somewhat bellicose, while in a third he is shown with outstretched wings flapping away on an extended arm. "Ari's" manners sometimes leave a good deal to be desired. For instance the morning after my arrival he appeared at the open window of the breakfast room, and demanded our immediate attention. I turned round and said sternly, "You scamp! Be off. At the word—d'ye hear?" "Ha, ha!" laughed 'Ari, as he sprang on to my knee. "Gobble, gobble," and, with a quick jerk of his bill he snatched a piece of ham from my plate and swallowed it. Absolutely unafraid and cheeky! Any kind of food is welcome; fat meat, lean meat, fish, &c., while he simply adores cheese above everything. A very favourite game of his, is for somebody to place a piece of cheese between their lips, and pretend to be totally unaware of the proximity of Herring Gulls or any other feathered thieves. "Ari" watches with bright, eager eyes, and quietly stretches out his neck, towards the coveted morsel, then, with lightning rapidity, there follows a "snap," and his lordship has collared and bottled the tit-bit. This will give some idea of his extreme tameness. Indeed, it would be quite impossible for any bird to be tamer than he, and when, in the course of time he assumes his full adult plumage of pearly grey and white, he will be a beautiful bird.

"ARI." *Photo by F. Dawson-Smith.*

All Gulls keep themselves spotlessly clean in captivity, by constant bathing and preening their feathers. I have kept a good many Herring Gulls in the past, but none ever became really tame, and, personally, I don't care for a timid or wild bird in captivity. Possibly those I had may have been too old when caught. "Ari" is quite different and ridiculously tame, and always up to something fresh and amusing with his inquiring mind. May he spend many years at Nash and live to a ripe old age!

As a species the Herring Gull is abundant all round the coast of Great Britain. It is a bird of large size, measuring about 24 inches in length, and is extremely handsome when it assumes its adult plumage, which may be described as follows: Head and neck white; bill yellow with orange spot on lower mandible; back and part of wings, light grey; quills blackish tipped with white; breast and belly pure white. Legs and feet flesh colour. The immature Herring Gull has the mottled plumage common to all young Gulls. The nest is to be found on cliffs, and on low, rocky islands, such as the Farnes, off the coast of Northumberland. The eggs 2—3 in number, vary a good deal in colour from olive green to brown, splotched and marked with dark brown and grey. May and June are the months when incubation commences, and during these months and July, a visit to any place where they breed numerously is a deafening experience owing to their shrill screams and noisy cries. The herring gull cannot be regarded with affection by other birds, as it is an inveterate egg stealer, and takes any and every opportunity to obtain its ill-gotten meal.

In captivity it is quite easy to cater for. It will feed on any kind of scraps from the table, but the favourite and most suitable diet is undoubtedly fish. It is, especially when in full adult plumage, a fine and striking bird on a lawn, but according to my experience, seldom becoming really tame. "Ari" is an exception which proves the rule. I never met another of his species to be compared with him, and don't suppose I ever shall. "Here's to you, 'Ari,' dear!"

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The Endurance of Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S, Etc.

(*Continued from page* 35).

A rather unfortunate printer's error occurred in last instalment—line 17 of page 33 reading: "aviaries, some of the Sugar and Sunbirds could undoubtedly," whereas it should read, *aviaries are built on gravel, or gravel and chalk, are in an.*

It is not by any means easy to assign the causes of the various disasters and losses which assail an aviary, or rather its occupants, in the course of a given year or even years; and it is too often equally difficult to provide a remedy for such; the remedies, though effective up to a given point, often prove contributory to other disasters in their turn, *e.g.*, keeping birds sheltered during the winter months, too often renders them very susceptible to sudden changes, especially the too often bitterly cold nights of early spring; when many hens are lost from "egg-binding" arising from chills—one point stands out quite clear, viz.: the *harder* we can keep our birds the better for them, and the percentage of loss from climatic conditions will be reduced to a minimum. But keeping them "hard" does not necessarily imply exposing them to all and every change the English climate inflicts upon them, neither does the line of safety imply a heated shelter and confinement therein during every inclement spell; by so doing we only increase their susceptibility to every chilly blast that blows, whenever they venture, as they often will, into the open. Wherein, then, lies the happy medium?

I hope to be able to indicate in the course of this instalment, what my experience leads me to consider this course to be; but, we must recognise that though we may reduce the danger from climatic conditions, below that of birds at liberty upon their native heath, yet the danger from abnormal unseasonable weather cannot be entirely eliminated, neither can any deduction which I may draw be considered final, for *real* aviculturists, as well as those which follow us, will be scholars to the end of the chapter, and unless we are mere bolsterers up of theories, the experiences of the next few yars *may* (I don't say *will*) cause us to entirely revise present day methods. For the present it will not be well for us to advance beyond experience—the course of safety should be along the paths it (experience) indicates.

Take the charming (despised by some, because it is cheap and common), *hardy* little Zebra Finch. Hardy, he certainly is, yet there is no species we keep that has a heavier percentage of non-understandable losses. The mystery or difficulty is only intensified by the fact that one year the bulk of the losses will be confined to hens, but in others it will be exactly *vice versa* ! As regards this species general evidence seems to indicate that it is not a long-lived species though there are cases of decided longevity ; also that the hens are very liable to so-called egg-binding, especially in bad seasons—so much so, that if an aviarist started with two or three pairs, and did not add thereto, in spite of their prolificness in the course of a few years his stock would be *non est*

It is well to face our difficulties, as not only is the case of one species closely analogous to others, of course, to a greater or lesser degree, but facing a difficulty mostly means finding the way out. I will now tabulate most of the points I have made so far, then, I think, I shall have supplied the why and wherefore of the answer I shall attempt to give to the query that has presented itself.

1. There are a few aviculturists, whose aviaries are erected upon ground having a sub-soil of gravel, or gravel and chalk, who are almost immune from the dangers that follow in the train of damp, wet periods, and, in consequence they may subject their birds to almost any extent of exposure with impunity, owing to the advantage arising from well drained ground.

2. That lengthy periods of severe frost, with or without snow, are not the times of fear, the critical period arises at the thaw.

3. Some species should be shut in during wintry nights; others to be taken indoors entirely during the winter months; while others may be left to take their own course. The difficulty is, that these varying conditions do not occur along well defined lines, but *may all be found among the species of one genus.*

4. That a heated shelter, and confining the birds thereto during winter's nights and abnormal periods, or wholly

confining them to the shelter for the winter, is only a partial success. It does check losses during the winter, but in the spring, especially if it be a chilly one, when the birds are given unrestricted liberty and nesting begins, losses among hens are both maddening and distressing, and pneumonia and other ills are rife among both sexes.

5. It is recognised that some species must have a certain degree of heat, *i.e.*, not subjected to a lower temperaature than 50-60 degrees Far., all the year round. Such species can only be subjected to out-door treatment during the settled summer months, and that, only after being carefully "hardened-off," much as the gardener hardens-off his half-hardy plants.

6. That birds must be kept as hard as possible, but that we are not justified in taking reckless risks, nor in making reckless experiments. Pioneers may have had to do so, but it is little short of wicked for those who follow to do so; as there is ample room for reasonable and profitable experimentation without re-treading well-worn paths. I had better state here to prevent being misunderstood that "well-worn paths" has no connection with breeding again and again species that have been bred before, for much is to be gleaned therefrom; but I mean to imply that it is vain to attempt experiments, of which there exists ample evidence that such are futile.

7. If there is to be progress in aviculture we must not be slaves of the text-book; at the same time we must acquaint ourselves with what has been done, so that we may make an intelligent start, and not in ignorance inflict needless suffering upon the birds we seek to keep. Having done this we must think, observe, and plan for ourselves. Also, we must be seekers after truth, for to be mere bolsterers up of any given theory or theories is an effective check to all progress, for then we are only too apt to observe in a given direction.

Now, I think, to pursue the matter further would be to needlessly and unprofitably weary my readers, and I had better, after thus declaring myself, answer as best I can the query—

Wherein lies the happy medium ?. I think I can best do this by a number of short jerky sentences.

By keeping the birds *hard*.

By an entirely unheated flight and shelter, yet con-constructed on the night-drive principle.

If the sub-soil is clay or the soil otherwise very retentive (soggy), by securing the best drainage possible—often raising the ground level of the inside of the aviary; six to twelve inches above that of the ground outside, best secures this—best of all, both drain well and also raise the ground level of the aviary.

By providing plenty of cover, natural in the flight, branches and furze in the shelter—by cover in the shelter. I mean not merely branches for perching accommodation, but a thick hedge of twiggy branches and furze, not only for perching but for cover (retreats) also; but little driving in at night, will then be needed.

By personal supervision, not leaving everything to the discretion of the aviary-attendant, but by seeing that what is required is done one's self. Leaving the birds as much free-will as possible, but forcing them to the shelter whenever weather conditions demand it—one is only qualified to do this by a personal study of the birds, and nothing can compensate for the lack of it.

To sum up, my present ideal is an unheated aviary, constructed on the "night-drive" principle; the birds, during the winter months to be driven in to the shelter; and confined therein whenever their owner considers desirable—the number of species which require more protection than that of four walls is not great. Personal supervision. And, as a last word, the shelter to be adequate must be as well lighted, well ventilated and as free from damp and draught as a living room.

Again, I will say I hope I have not been prosy, I have sought to make myself as clear and helpful as I know how. At the same time I have not sought to exhaust the subject, for I earnestly desire others to follow me. I am not writing as Editor, but as an ordinary member.

In the next instalment I propose to consider longevity among the various groups.

(*To be continued*).

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Editorial.

NESTING AND REARING OF YOUNG CACATUA GALERITA: This interesting event has occurred in the grounds of Mr. H. Whitley, in South Devon. A pair of Sulpuhr-crested Cockatoos were flying at liberty, but under complete control; however we had better quote extracts from a most interesting letter:

> "When breeding the Sulphur-crests are continually on their stands "where they are fed, they merely nested in the tree. The young Cockatoo "when fairly well feathered I look from the nest and placed in a box "suspended on one of the old bird's stands It was thus fed and reared "until it could 'do' for itself, and was not allowed its liberty for many "months, not until I thought it had become sufficiently tame and tract-"able . . . they are under complete control, as they can be caught "when required on their stands, as easily as homing pigeons. At pres-"ent I have the cock bird at liberty, the hen chained on her stand, and "they are getting more amorous every day."

Thus tersely is told a most interesting episode, which we hope our new member will describe fully in an article for a near issue of "B.N." We consider we ought to award a special medal in such a case, though this occurrence could not be strictly accounted as "breeding in captivity," and anyone so succeeding (in captivity) would be entitled to a medal. Nevertheless we consider that, not only should a medal be awarded for this instance, but that the scope of the medal rules should be so extended as to include any similar instance of success in the future.

ERRATA:

Page 72 line 21, "petrel-red" should read *kestrel-red*.
,, 58 line 2 for "which" read *and*.
,, 67 line 17 delete "," after account.
,, 67 line 20 delete "," after Germany.
,, 68 line 16 for "Batchcherrygah" read *Betchcherrygah*
,, 69 line 14 for "Nanodeg" read *Nanodes*.

Correspondence.

THE AMETHYST-RUMPED SUNBIRD.

Sir,—I am sending you a Sunbird's nest, which I have received from my sister (Mrs. Dickinson), who lives in the South of Ceylon, about fifteen miles from the coast. She sends me the following notes concerning it:

"We have one of the bigger Sunbirds nesting by a garden bench "just on one side of the window. It is hung on a twig not $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet "above the ground, with a brick receiver for the water-pipe just below, "where the cats come to sun themselves. It nearly touches the cosy "chair I sit out in every day. As I write the hen is sitting and I could "nearly touch her with my pen. The nest is in the angle of the wall. "The cock chose the site and was days over it, but he only knows how "to tie hairs, the hen did all the rest and completed it in five days. The "cock was in attendance, watching and singing, while she built.

"For some reason the cats do not eat her, I think they must "jump down twenty times a day and she flies off, but they never try to "touch her. One night she flew into the lamp but the Podian (native "page boy) replaced her on the nest.

"I do hope she hatches out her three or four eggs. The nest "faces the wall and pipe. I will send it when it's all finished with. "The hen's head and neck are always outside the nest as she patiently "incubates the eggs."

"The male is metallic purple-brown, with brilliant purple crown "and throat; pale canary-yellow chest and breast, and thin, arched beak.

"The female is dull grey-brown above and greyish-white below. "One young bird was reared in this nest in December."

My sister sent me the nest by next mail, so I presume the young must have been hatched when she was writing. I thought the above might interest readers of "Bird Notes."

Tarporley, Cheshire, 2/3/'16. (Mrs.) ALICE STOREY.

[The nest is most interesting; it is composed of fine and coarse bents, lichen, plant down, and paper shavings (very little of the latter), well cemented together with cobwebs and is attached (suspended) to a slender twig. The nest is very nearly a true oval, four inches long by two inches thick (outside measurements). There is a circular entrance hole, at the side about one inch in diameter, partially obscured by a slightly overhanging porch. The walls of the nest are well cemented together, and only in the upper part can a little light be seen through them. The nest pocket is one and three-eighths of an inch deep and snugly lined with feathers. At the moment I have not a camera handy, but for a later issue I will photograph and reproduce it.—Ed].

PINTAILED PARROT-FINCHES (Nonpareils).

Sir,—The following note (Tenasserim, Jan. 16, 1916), will probably interest many B.N. readers :

"I am glad to tell you I have at last succeeded in finding "for you the "N.-P." Pin-tailed finches ; quite by chance I was visiting "a distant Siamese village to find a man to whom to give a contract "a distant Siamese village to find a couple of these birds recently caught "being played with by the native children there. It was quite a bit of "luck, because, according to the natives, these birds are migratory, and "they say they have not seen them in these parts for the past many years, "and they only come just about the time the paddy is being harvested, "so the time of my return fitted in just right for them ; they seem to "have all disappeared again now. At the time I put all the villagers "on catching them, and succeeded in getting about 500. I have now got "these in an aviary I put up here and I'll send them to you in batches of "three or four cages at a time containing 40—50 each. They are certainly a "very gorgeous sight all together with their scarlet flame breasts, green "and blue heads and backs, you would like to see them. I'll keep "the aviary going, and endeavour to have a lot also for your next visit, "which I hope is going to be this year.

"They seem to live in captivity very well. I get few deaths "now although I did get half-a-dozen or so a day to start with, they eat "no end, of paddy, and an essential seems to be to give them plenty "of clear water in which to bathe ; they love ducking about in it, and "I have had a proper cement place made for it in the aviary. The "top of the aviary is covered with cocoa-nut palms, and some inside "too, for roosting—they like plenty of shade. I have got some travel-"ling cages ready made, and I have made arrangements for the Chin "Choo (Trade Manager) of the Chinese steamer to look after the birds "as far as Penang, the present difficulty is to get hold of a suitable "person in Penang to take care of them, and make arrangements for "shipping home. I have been in correspondence with two, one after the "other, and they do not seem to care to take on the job, but a third "with whom I am in correspondence now, I think will do it. They'll "need constant attention, and I'm telling this man to get hold of the "butcher of one of the regular home-going direct boats, give him a sov-"ereign, and tell him there will be another two for him in London pro-"viding he gets as many birds home as possible safe. A strange feature "about the birds I have here is, that until recently they have been "acting as decoys to others of the same kind and we have caught "quite a number from outside in this way."

I have received a small consignment of the above (33 cocks and 100 hens). They were shipped in a private cabin, and well treated *en route*. They have arrived in the pink of condition, and the losses during the voyage home were less than five per cent. There has not been a single death since they arrived, and a pair put into the out-door aviary are in perfect health. All are fit to put on the show-bench straight away, and they all look *livers*.

R. ARNOLD.

Streatham S.W., 3 : 4 : 16.

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Book Notices and Reviews.

A BIRD CALENDAR FOR NORTHERN INDIA. By D. Dewar, I.C.S.; F.Z.S.;

London: Thacker and Co., Creed Lane, E.C. 6s.

Yet another book from the prolific pen of Mr. Dewar, whose writings are well known to our members. And once again is this work planned and carried through in his own inimitable style. It is no "dry as dust" calendar of the birds to be met with in the various months of the year, but is written in narrative form, and runs into more than 200 pages, every one of which is informative and replete with interest. But the best commendation one can give it is to let the work speak for itself by quoting one or two extracts therefrom.

"JANUARY: Some species of Munia breed at this time of the
"year. The red munia, or amadavat or *Lal* (*Estrelda amandava*), is a next
"to the parraquet, the bird most commonly caged in India. This
"little exquisite is considerably smaller than a sparrow. Its bill is
"bright crimson, and there is some red or crimson in the plumage—
"more in the cock than in the hen, and most in both sexes at the
"breeding season. The remainder of the plumage is brown, but is
"everywhere heavily spotted with white. In a state of nature these
"affect long grass, for they feed largely, if not entirely, on grass
"seed. The cock has a sweet voice, which although feeble, is sufficiently
"loud to be heard at some distance, and is frequently uttered."

"The nest of the Avadavat is large for the size of the bird,
"being a loosely woven cup, which is egg-shaped and has a hole at
"or near the narrow end. It is composed of fine grass stems, and is
"often lined with soft material. It is usually placed in the middle
"of a bush, sometimes in a tussock of grass. From six to fourteen
"eggs are laid. These are white in colour. This species appears to
"breed twice in a year from October to February and again from
"June to August."

"March: Minivets are aerial exquisites. In descriptions of them su-
"perlative follows upon superlative. The cocks of most species of them
"are arrayed in scarlet and black; the hens are not one whit less
"brilliantly attired in yellow and sable. One species lives entirely

"in the plains, others visit them in the cold weather; the majority "are permanent residents of the hills. The solitary denizen of the "plains the little Minivet (*Pericrocotus peregrinus*) is the least resplendent of them all. Its prevailing hue is slaty grey, but the cock "has a red breast and some red on the back. The nest is a cup, so "small as to be either invisible from below, or to present the appearance "of a knot or thickening in the branch on which it is placed. Sometimes two broods are reared in the course of the year one in March, "April or May, and the other during the rainy season."

"APRIL: April is the month in which to look for two exquisite "little nests—those of the white-eye (*Zosterops palpebrosa*) and the "iora (*Aegithina tiphia*). White-eyes are minute greenish-yellow birds "with a conspicuous ring of white feathers round the eye. They go "about in flocks. Each individual utters unceasingly a plaintive cheeping note by means of which it keeps its fellows acquainted with its "whereabouts. 'At the breeding season, that is to say in April and 'May, the cock sings an exceedingly sweet, but very soft lay of six or "seven notes. The nest is a cup, about 2½ inches in diameter and "¾ of an inch in depth. It is usually suspended like a hammock, from "the fork of a branch; sometimes it is attached to the end of a "single bough; it then looks like a ladle, the bough being the "handle. It is composed of cobweb, roots, hair, and other soft materials. "Three or four tiny pale-blue eggs are laid."

"The iora has a variety of calls, of these a soft and rather "plaintive long-drawn-out whistle is uttered most frequently in April "and May.

"In shape and size the nest resembles an after-dinner coffee-"cup It is beautifully woven, and like those of the white-eye and "fantail flycatcher, covered with cobweb; this gives it a very neat "appearance. In it are laid two or three eggs of salmon hue, with "reddish-brown and purple-grey blotches."

These extracts must suffice, I have not chosen them as being the best in the book, but as being of special interest in members of F.B.C.

The writer found the book fascinating from cover to cover, containing much that is really as informative to the aviculturist as to the ornithologist, and we cordially commend it to our readers as a valuable addition to their library.

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Post Mortem Reports.

(*Vide rules, page iii. of cover.*)

TOUCAN. (C. F. Leach, Leatherhead). The cause of death was acute pneumonia. No details were sent.

GOULDIAN FINCH (♂). (J. Smith, Kendal). Cause of death, haemorrhage into liver.

CORDON BLEU. (Miss K. Webb, Cambridge.). Cause of death, pneumonia.

GOULDIAN FINCH (♂). (H. J. Turner, Newton Abbot). Cause of death, pneumonia. This disease is usually fatal in birds and in spite of the treatment carried out death mostly ends the scene. Great heat, citrate of soda or aceto-salicylic acid in the water or food may give benefit in the less acute cases.

CANARY—GOLDFINCH HYBRID AND ROLLER CANARY. (Mrs. Burgess, Bristol). Cause of death, pneumonia.

DIAMOND DOVE. (B. C. Thomasset, Ashmansworth). The lungs were congested; no doubt caused by a lowered temperature.

Answered by Post:—James Yealland; the Hon. Mrs. Bourke, H. Earle; Col. Routh.

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

◆

A Colony of Birds.

NEW ZEALAND DISCOVERY.

Wellington, Saturday.—Mr. R. E. Clouston, a mining engineer, recently made a remarkable discovery of bird life near Rockville, in the Nelson district, while exploring the ranges. Mr. Clouston discovered an entire colony of birds of rare species, including thousands of kiwis and kakapos. The latter bird is so rare that recently an advertisement was published which offered £80 for one of its kind."

"Mr. Clouston declares that he had not seen anything like the collection before. He secured a number of kiwis, which he placed on the Little Barrier. 'Not only are there kiwis and kakapos,' he says, 'but dozens of mountain duck, saddle backs (worth £10 each), New Zealand robins, wrens, owls, coots, petrels (rain birds), keas, kakas, tui, makomakos, warblers, riflemen, creepers (rare), maori hens, fantails, tomtits, and pigeons. It was a harvest of rarities. Kiwis are there because the feed is good. We found great worms over 4ft. in length; the longest one I measured was 4ft. 10in."

[The above interesting cutting—from a Sydney paper for January, 1916—by Mr. R. Colton, having received it from a friend in N.S. Wales.—Ed. "B.N."]

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Amazon Rail.

By W. Shore Baily.

I'm calling my bird the Amazon Rail. I have no wish for it to be thought that it is the one and only rail to be found on that noble river, to which this name would apply. There are probably many other species to be met with along its course of 3,500 miles, with perhaps a greater right to the title. Still, this is the way it was described to me by Mr. Cross, of Liverpool. I know it by no other name, so the Amazon Rail it will have to be, and I must leave it to the scientists to put a Latin name to it, should they so desire. I gather from Mr. Cross that two of them came over, one of which escaped. This was a misfortune as I should have liked to try and breed them.

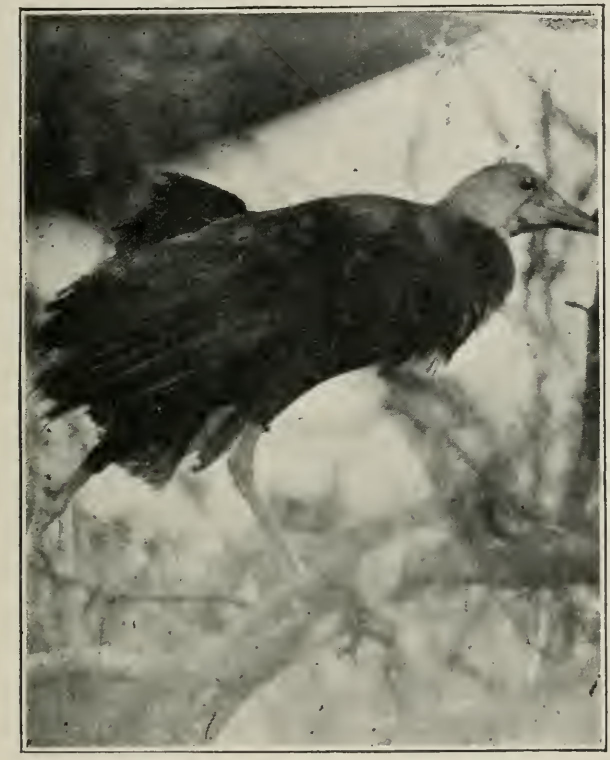
It is an extremely attractive bird, both in appearance and demeanour. It is about the size of our Moorhen but has longer legs. The crown of the head and back are golden brown, neck and throat, bluish grey; breast bright chestnut; abdomen and tail black; wings reddish brown; legs carmine; bill yellow. A very effective colour arrangement indeed.

It is absolutely tame, likes being petted, and will stand to be stroked just like a cat or dog. It eats anything. I had some difficulty in photographing it, as it would insist on trying to eat the camera lens. When I enter the aviary the first thing in the morning, it greets me with loud clucks, not unlike those of a broody hen; at other times it points its beak at the ground and pretends not to see me, and on being approached puts its head between its legs, and walks slowly off in a curious and stilted manner. It has none of the stalk-ing habits of the American Clapper Rail (*R. obsoletus*) or of our own Corn-crake and Water Rail, but this may be due to its extreme tameness. In this it resembles its little North American cousin *P. jamaiciensis*, one of the least shy of all the water birds. I have several times had these run over my legs when reclining in a boat.

The Amazon Rail. (*Photo by W. Shore Baily*)

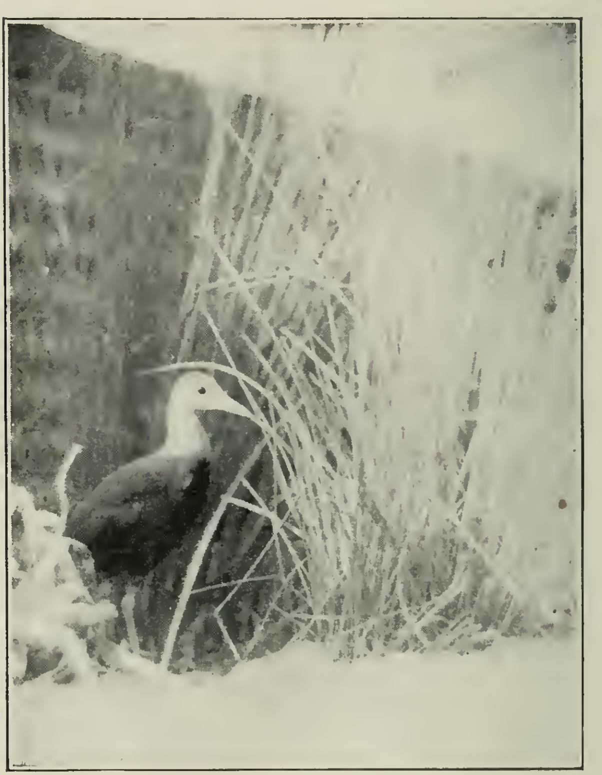
My Rail spends a good deal of its time in the trees and bushes, and always chooses one of the highest to roost in at night. In this respect its habits are more like those of of the Wood Ibises than of the true Rails. I have occasionally seen our English Rail well up in the top of a high bush near the water, but I rather fancy that they must have been frightened there. Of course our Moorhen frequently builds in similar spots. Like *R. aquaticus* it is a good swimmer, but does not, I think, do so, from choice.

As to its disposition with other birds, I have my doubts whether it would be safe to trust it with small birds.



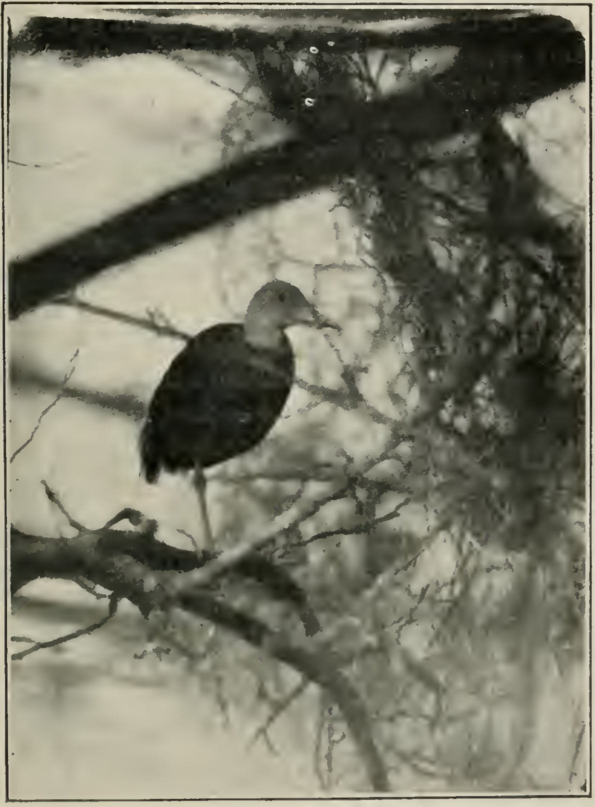
The Amazon Rail. (*Photo by W. Shore Baily*).

Its prominent ruby eye makes it look as if it might be dangerous. So far there is in the aviary only a pair of St. Thomas Conures. One day when I was trying to get a photo to illustrate these notes, the hen Conure, which is also finger tame flew down to see what I was doing. In an instant the Rail was at her, but before I could intervene the little Parrot had gone for it literally tooth and nail, and screaming horribly. I never saw a more astonished Rail. When she had done with him, she climbed on to my shoulder, and shouted (she speaks rather nicely) "Come on," "come on," "come on," but needless to say the Rail was not inclined to respond; he seemed to think that the far end of his pond was quite the best place, while little demons of Parrots were about. Had it been a Finch or similar bird, I have no doubt but that the Rail would have killed it. I once kept the so-called Grey-headed and Blue Rails (*P. paliocephalus* and *P. porphyrio*) and found them particularly murderous with small birds. They would take their unfortunate victims in their claws and literally tear them limb from limb. They were perfect Huns, in fact. Still they are very handsome birds and I have often wondered why no attempts have been made



The Amazon Rail. (*Photo by W. Shore Baily*).

to acclimatize them. If they were turned out on a sufficiently large piece of water, where there were enough Waterfowl to keep a space unfrozen in hard weather, they ought to do very well, and a flock of 40 or 50 would look very handsome. The Amazon Rail would look equally attractive as a denizen of our ponds and lakes. It is just possible that I may be able to obtain a male for my bird later on, and if so, every chance shall be given them to reproduce their kind; and an account shall be sent to "B.N." if they are successful.



The Amazon Rail. (*Photo by W. Shore Baily*).

Bird Life and Sport on Achill Island.

BY FRANK DAWSON-SMITH.

I will begin with a trite remark. Life is like a kaleidoscope with its ever changing scenes, growing dim, maybe, in the rush of the years. But there remain some which are ineffaceably engraved on the memory. In my personal retrospect I recall many unforgotten scenes, adventures, and places near to Nature's heart. In this connection I place Achill Island, off the coast of West Ireland, a district bearing the marks of Nature in her most generous form. One memorable winter* I was asked to spend a few weeks with some sporting friends there; an invitation which I hailed with delight. The first part of the journey was decidedly unpleasant owing to the appalling weather we experienced. This caused the mail boat to be two hours late in starting from Holyhead. When at last she left, the rough sea caused many of the passengers to wish she had not started ! It snowed unceasingly and the wind blew a hurricane until we neared Kingstown, when it somewhat abated. As soon as the boat was more or less stationary, we grabbed our penates, and got ashore, in a rush to get aboard the Dublin train, in order to catch the West of Ireland express, at the capital. However, as luck would have it owing to our train being late, we joined the express before we got to Dublin, and made a speedy journey to Athlone. Here we changed into the Achill Sound train and also had a glimpse of the noble river Shannon. We had a long tedious journey from this point, with little to interest in the view owing to the flatness of central Ireland. And the train itself reminded one of the hare and the tortoise—the train being the hare. It travelled fairly quickly, it is true, but made up for the speed by unconscionably long waits at the stations. Had the tortoise gone the route required as a slow goods train, plodding steadily along, it would assuredly have reached its destination first, having passed us on the way. But all worries end some time. After passing Westport the scenery became steadily grander and wilder. Bold mountains hove in sight, and the beautiful waters of Clew Bay gave splendid promise of joys to come. Late in the afternoon we reached Achill Sound—our terminus, as well as that of the line. We soon had our travelling impedimenta packed on to an Irish jaunting car, and started on the long drive to our final destination, Dugort, about ten miles away.

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* 1914.

The narrow channel between Achill Sound and the mainland is now bridged. We passed across it and reached Dugort, the settlement, a quaint little place sheltering beneath Slievemore Mountain, about a couple of hours later. The following day my guide was introducing to me a typical West Irishman named Michael Molloy. This "bhoy" proved a veritable walking encyclopaedia of knowledge regarding birds inhabiting the island. Added to this he knew every inch of Achill, possessed three useful dogs for shooting purposes, and last, but by no means least, he had eyes like a hawk.

Our first day's excursion was to Keel Lough, a large sheet of water about two and a half miles distant. We had a look at Dookinelly, a hamlet consisting of a few one storied thatched cottages, and a place where *porter* could be obtained. "Just the stuff, sor, to start a day wid, bedad!" remarked Michael; thus enlightening me as to the customs of the country. I responded to the delicate suggestion, in the way he evidently approved, and when he had finished his study of my methods, we proceeded on our adventures, and went down to the side of the Lough. Here my attention became rivetted on the multitude of birds. Flocks of Lapwings were flying around, alternately black and white as they turned in the air. Close at hand were a number of noisy little Redshanks, running about on the sandy shore, their slender, red legs being easily distinguishable among the rest. Intermingled with them were other Waders, Dunlins, Purple Sandpipers, and those quaint little fellow—the Turnstones, all busily occupied in a common task—searching for food. Judging by their sudden rushes and quick dabs with their bills they found a plentiful supply. The noisy but shy Curlew was much in evidence and numbers of these birds were flying around, well out of possible danger, and constantly emitting their wild cries. A Heron, sedate and motionless was standing in the water at the edge of the lake, while further out was a flock of Wigeon. Beyond the Wigeon were a score of wild swans, which are believed by the Achill natives to be witches! Very graceful did they appear as they floated over the Lough, until something alarmed them and they rose suddenly with a great flapping of wings, first close to the water and then circling higher and higher, until they reached a great height and disappeared in the direction of Ballacroy on the mainland.

Few people know what good eating a Cygnet makes. In olden days it was a recognized "dainty dish to set before a king." I had once sampled the dainty and was anxious to repeat the experiment. So a few days later I brought a rifle down and picked off a couple of them, which provided a most appetising repast later. Walking round the lake we disturbed a number of Rock Pigeons which were on the ground. They took flight when we drew nearer, but we managed to shoot several on the wing.

The next thing which claimed our interest was a small islet farther away. This, we learned, was the "Bill's Rock," about five miles from where we stood. It is a great breeding place for sea birds, and I am hoping some day I may have the good fortune to explore the islet at my leisure. At present, it is, of necessity, in the "dim future," and "on the knees of the gods" of war, as I am engaged in "the great adventure" like the majority of my countrymen.

But, to "return to our mutton." The Stormy Petrel is another bird that breeds on some of the adjacent islets, and that handsome, but rare member of the *Corvidae*, the Chough, nests on the mighty Achill cliffs. I saw these birds constantly during my stay, but never from very close quarters. Another member of this family that is very abundant is the Carrion Crow. What struck me chiefly was the extreme tameness and disregard of human intruders shown by the Achill Crow. It was the more extraordinary when one considers how wary English Crows are.

That evening we went duck-flighting at Keel Lough. I can picture the scene vividly in my mind's eye. We sat by the edge of the water at a point over which the duck were accustomed to fly as they came in from the sea at eventide, in order to spend the night on the Lake. Here we waited in silence, taking stock of the scenery round us. And how grand —how magnificent it all was! The great sheet of water—Nature's mirror, reflected great mountains and wonderful cloud effects, while from afar came the ceaseless roar and murmur of the waves as they broke upon the shore. All around came the cries of the birds, Redshanks, Curlews, and myriad others, their various notes and calls being easy to distinguish by one who knew and loved them as I did. Then the moon came up and we saw the mighty Croaghawn in the distance, whose opposite side was a fearful precipice tenanted by sea birds, and, on the narrow ledges, by the wild goats. All around Nature ruled supreme. Picture it if you can. Mountains, moors, water, and the call of the birds. For a long time we remained lost in contemplation of the wild beauty around us. Then suddenly, "Attention!" A rushing sound overhead,—a momentary glimpse of wild fowl and "bang, bang," and three fine Wigeon fell to our guns. We cautiously retrieved the spoil and again waited in patience in the hope of shooting a Goose, which we thought might pass over, but we had no luck in this direction. We added a few more Wigeon to our bag, and then started on the homeward trudge. The next day we went after Snipe, which abound on the Achill Marshes. Here we had splendid sport. Michael brought a red Irish setter named "Floss," for this particular work, and it was wonderful to watch it. Floss appeared to scent a Snipe at an incredible distance, and would work nearer and nearer, until she "set" it at a distance of a few yards. Up would fly the Snipe with that curious zig-zag flight which every sportsman can recognize, followed by the reports of our guns, and usually with satisfactory results from our point of view. On this occasion the one and only Jack Snipe that we saw, fell to my gun. It rose a long distance in front but soon settled again. Floss flushed it and it fell to a single report. Jack Snipe can be easily distinguished from the Common Snipe by their much smaller size. For this reason they are often called "Half-snipe." They usually sit very close and, when disturbed, only fly a short distance. We increased our bag on this occasion by the addition of a Moor-hen which rose from a clump of reeds, and a Teal, the drake of which species, in spring plumage is, to my mind, the most beautiful little duck that inhabits the British Isles.

(*To be continued*).

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An Indian Nest of the Norfolk Plover or Stone-Curlew.

(*Ædicnemus Scolopax.*)

BY HUGH WHISTLER, M.B.O.U., I.P.

In England we are so accustomed to look on the Stone-Curlew as a bird of open heaths or warrens, or great expanses of shingle, that our members may care to hear of the first nest of this species that I have found in the Punjab; I gather from reading Hume's descriptions that my nest may be considered typical of the habits of the Indian race of the bird.

During a few days of this month I was encamped at near Sirhind, between Ludhiana and Ambala, Morinda is noted for its huge groves of Mango trees, some of very great size and age. These groves extend all round the inspection bungalow in which I was putting up and during the first two nights of my stay I was greatly puzzled about the possible identity of some birds which could be heard calling in the darkness here and there around the bungalow. The call was a sort of whistling shriek, which might be represented by the word "twe-e-e-e-k." After a good deal of thought it struck me that it was probably the Stone-Curlew which is well-known to be partly or largely nocturnal.

Next morning, accordingly (19th March), I went out to see whether I could find the species in the vicinity; when I had been here in camp on 8th December previously my Falconer had reported seeing a party of four but I had not verified his statement.

These mango groves are very cool and shady; the trees are planted in rows at regular intervals, and in the younger gardens the ground is almost bare of grass and other herbage, while a circle of earth is drawn out from round the trunk of each tree, forming a shallow basin edged by a ridge, for the purpose of catching rain water.

In one of these groves of younger trees I saw a Stone-Curlew running in front of me, on the bare leaf strewn ground near some patches of coarse stubbly grass, and as a forlorn hope I started to search for eggs when the second bird got up suddenly close by from a patch of fallen leaves, where it had been squatting. There I had a brief hope of finding the eggs but there were none, so after some more desultory searching I left the place.

However, in the evening I went quietly to the spot in in hopes of getting some clue to a possible nest by seeing the hen leave it, but was disappointed to find my orderly already there and the bird on the alert; one bird could be seen squatting amongst the leaves where it had been in the morning whilst the other was standing up some 30 yards away under another tree. I again searched the patch of leaves only to be satisfied that there at least no eggs had been laid, reluctantly concluding that it was the chosen site where eggs would be deposited later. However, it seemed worth looking also where the second bird had been standing. We were searching about there when my eye was caught by a mass of Doves' droppings on the ground, and I was gazing up into the tree for a nest when Ahmed Khan, the Orderly, exclaimed: "there's an egg," and so there was, just by my feet !

The soitarly egg was laid, without any apparent trace of effort on the bird's part to prepare a nest, on the top of the low drainage ridge of earth drawn round the tree trunk.

I left it until the following morning but no second egg was laid, although it proved to be quite fresh. That day my camp was moving on, so it was not feasible to wait a second night to make certain that this was the complete clutch.

Bird-catching in India.

By Douglas Dewar, F.Z.S., I.C.S.

In India there are certain castes whose only means of livelihood is bird snaring. These are known as *bheliyas* or *chiriya-mars.*

The natives of India usually possess a considerable stock of patience and a full share of ingenuity. Some of the devices whereby birds are snared are extraordinarily ingenious: others make an unending demand on the patience of the operator. I think it will be admitted that the man who has the patience to "fish" for Pigeons in a tree by means of a horse-hair noose at the end of a stem of giant grass, until he succeeds in entangling in the noose the leg of a bird, has fairly earned his quarry!

Falconry is a pastime largely indulged in in certain parts of the country; in consequence there are hundreds of people who lay themselves out to catch birds of prey.

Wild raptores are usually trapped in one or other of the following three ways:

Peregrines and other Falcons are commonly caught by means of a piece of limed cane, about the length of the expanse of a Falcon's wing. To the middle of this piece of cane an unfortunate Dove, of which the eyes have been sewn up, is tied. When the falconer espies a Falcon he throws the Dove, with the piece of cane attached to it, into the air. The Dove flutters about on its wings aimlessly and attracts the attention of the Falcon. The wings of the bird of prey get caught by the bird-lime, so that it cannot fly. It falls to the ground, bringing the Dove with it, and the Falconer runs up and secures his prize.

The smaller birds of prey are commonly captured in a net, called a *dogaz,* baited with a myna. The net in question is about a yard broad, and two yards long. At each end it is attached by its whole breadth to a pole. Each pole is stuck into the ground so that the net stands upright like a lawn-tennis net. Close to it the lure bird is tethered to the ground. It struggles and tries to get away. Its movements ere long attract one of the numerous birds of prey which are nearly always flying overhead in open country in India. The victim either fails to see or ignores the net, stoops at the bait and becomes entangled if it happen to approach from the side on which the net is erected.

The third common method of capturing birds of prey is by flying a lure bird. For this purpose the falconer employs one of the more feeble of the raptores—probably a White-eyed Buzzard. Some of the feathers of each wing of the lure bird are tied together so that it can fly only with considerable effort, and when thrown up drops to the ground exhausted after a flight of about three hundred yards. To the feet of the lure bird is tied a bundle of feathers in which are mingled a number of horse-hair nooses. Having been thus made up the lure bird is thrown into the air. It flaps heavily along. Seeing its laboured flight and the bundle of feathers attached to its toes any bird of prey that happens to be soaring in the vicinity thinks it is carrying some heavy booty and promptly attacks it with the object of robbing it. The result is usually that its feet get caught in the nooses and both birds drop struggling to the ground, where they are seized by the Falconer.

It is scarcely necessary to state that game birds, are those upon which bird-catchers mainly operate.

In the United Provinces the most usual method of netting Quail is to place overnight some covered cages containing call-birds near a *dal* or a sugar-cane field. The calls of the captive birds attract to the field in question numbers of wild Quail. Shortly before dawn a net is quietly stretched across one end of the field, and the Quail in the field are driven towards the net by drawing a rope lightly over the top of the growing crop, beginning at the end of the field opposite to the net and slowly moving the rope in the direction of the net. As the rope nears the net a great noise is made on all sides of the field except that across which the net is stretched. This causes the alarmed Quail to rush headlong into the net. A modification of the above method is to place call birds near a field of some low crop, and, just before dawn, to drag a net over the crop as one drags a carpet along the ground. This causes the Quail in the field to move on a little in advance of the net. When the net nears the end of the field the Quail do not break into the open but remain in doubt as to what to do. The net is then suddenly pulled down at the four corners and held down. In this way numbers of quail become caught in it.

A more ingenious method of catching Quail is largely resorted to in the Central Provinces. The apparatus consists of a circular net about six feet long and with a diameter of about ten inches. This net is closed at one end to form a *cul de sac.* It is provided with pegs so that it can be speedily pegged to the ground and form a trap into which the Quail can run. The remainder of the apparatus consists of a series of frames, each of which is about two feet long and one foot broad. Across each a net is lightly stretched. There are usually twelve of these frames. These are joined together by hinges to form two series of six, which can be folded up so that the total length is but two feet, or opened out and stuck into the ground so that the total length of each series is twelve feet. The quail-catcher thus armed sets out to a likely place for Quail and, by imitating their call, he attracts a number to the vicinity. He then proceeds to peg out his apparatus. He pegs down first one series of netted frames, then, at the other end of this, the *cul-de-sac* net. Lastly the second series of netted frames is joined to this and pegged out. The two series are arranged so that they form a very wide V with the *cul de sac* at the apex. Having set the net snarer walks quietly off and makes a dètour so as to put the Quail between himself and the trap. The next step is for him quietly to approach the net by walking to and fro, each line in the zig-zag bringing him nearer the nets. Thus he drives the Quail towards the net. When they reach this they do not attempt to jump over it, but run along it towards the *cul de sac.* They do not run in the opposite direction, because to do so would bring them nearer the man from whom they are running away. Eventually the birds all find themselves in the *cul de sac,* where they are easily secured.

Another method of capturing Quail which has been described to me, but which I have never witnessed is by means of a large bee-hive shaped basket devoid of a bottom and provided with an aperture at the top sufficiently large for the insertion of a man's hand. In order to use this apparatus it is necessary to discover some bush under which Quail are in the habit of congregating at night time. This is done by looking out during the day time for their droppings. Having discovered such a bush the Quail-catcher visits it after sunset and drops his basket over it. All that he has then to do is to insert his hand through the hole in the top of the basket and feel about until he secures a Quail that chances to be under the bush.

Another method of capturing Quail is by means of a decoy bird in a special kind of wicker cage. Attached to each side of the cage is a kind of closed wicker verandah, so arranged that the outer wall can be made to lie on the ground and spring up so as to close the verandah, as soon as light pressure is brought to bear on it.

Quail are exceedingly pugnacious. Wild birds hearing the call of a decoy bird at once come to fight it. The moment a Quail runs into one of the verandahs the outer wall closes with a snap and the bird finds itself a captive. Sometimes a further trap is set round the cage at some distance from it in the shape of a square of netted frames with a small space between each just large enough for a Quail to pass through. At each of these gaps a horse-hair noose is attached to the frame so that any Quail attempting to get through a gap is caught.

Miss Cockburn states that a method of securing the parent birds in cases where the young have been caught is to place these last in a hole about a foot deep. The old birds finding that the young ones cannot come up to them drop into the hole, and when there they find themselves in the same difficulty as the young birds and are promptly captured. In default of call-birds Quail are sometimes attracted to the net by the sound made by dragging the finger nail over a tightly stretched string. This sound is apparently mistaken by the Quail for the call of one of their species.

Those curious little birds, which are half Partridge and half Quail, called Bush-quails are caught as follows: A captive bird is taken into the jungle in the evening in a cage covered with fine hair nooses. When a locality containing Bush-quail is reached the cage with the call bird in it is set down, and the bird catcher blows on the bird inside the cage. All birds dislike wind and Bush-quails and Grey Partridges become furious when blown upon and set up angry cries of defiance. These soon attract the wild birds, which, like the proverbial Irishman, are always ready for a fight. They get caught in the nooses. It is said that it would be possible to catch every Bush-quail in a jungle by this device!

There are many different ways of snaring Partridges. One is the method just described.

(*To be continued*).

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The History of the Budgerigar

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., Etc.

(*Continued from page* 69).

From this time onwards the Budgerigar takes a prominent place in books on cage-birds. The article in Cassell's Canaries and Cage-birds by August Wiener, the author of the Foreign Bird section of this work, is so full of facts bearing on our subject, that I quote in *extenso* the more historical portion (p. 433).

"Between 1840 and 1850 a pair of these little birds were worth "£20 or £25. About the years 1850 to 1855, a pair would cost about £5. "Between 1855 and 1858 larger numbers of Undulated Parrakeets reached "Europe, and their price sank to a couple of sovereigns. Within the "last five years (this was written in 1879.—E.H.) the importation of "this one species of Parrakeet has increased enormously. About three "years ago they could be had in London for about seven shillings per "pair, but drought in Australia, and a dearth of canary-seed combined "stopped the supplies for a season, and their price rose again to twenty- "or even thirty-five shillings per pair. Previous importations, however,

" had stocked so many aviaries, and the prices then obtainable were " such an incentive to cage-breeding, that Dr. Russ estimates from " 10,000 to 25,000 Undulated Grass Parrakeets to be now bred annually " in Europe. 'A few years ago I have myself seen an aviary in Belgium " where from 500 to 800 Budgerigars had been bred every year in one " enclosure.

" The largest importation of Undulated Parrakeets which ever " took place was that from January to July, 1879. One ship, the *Hesperus*, " brought as many as 4,000 pairs, say 8,000 Undulated Parrakeets, safely " alive to London, and one London dealer sold in four months 14,800 " pairs of these birds. The total importation of Budgerigars in London " was, in the first six months of 1879, over 50,000 pairs; and they all " found buyers. Prices certainly declined until a dozen birds could be " bought retail for a guinea, and captains of Australian ships sold whole" sale at a shilling, or even less, per pair.

" In the year 1862 the first specimen of this Parrakeet was de" posited in the Zoological Gardens, and in 1879 this bird is nearly as " common a cage-bird as the Canary............Surely no other cage-bird is " equally frugal as the Budgerigar. A little canary-seed is all he re" quires, and even the accidental absence of water will not inconvenience " him in the least. The organism of these birds is adapted to live in " the oftentimes waterless plains of Australia. Thousands . . . . . are " brought to Europe annually without receiving a drop of water during " the three or four months' voyage **(i.e. forty years ago.— E.H.)** and strange " to say, fewer birds die on the voyage when kept without water, than " of those which are supplied with water. After arrival the case may " be different; and I more than suspect that of those birds which have " made the voyage from Australia to England without tasting water, " a good many die after arrival. It cannot be natural that a bird should " live very long on hard, dry seed without any moisture whatever . . . . .

" Sometimes a shipment arrives with a loss of only two to five " per cent., and in another season the mortality during the voyage may " be fifty per cent and even more. There have been seasons when dis" ease became epidemic, and nearly all Undulated Grass Parrakeets died " during the voyage or soon after; and a quite unusual mortality was " then observed among Budgerigars of former seasons, and beyond the " reach of direct infection. This, as well as the fluctuating import ac" counts for the rapid fluctuations in the price of this favourite bird " during one season. In the early part of 1879, Budgerigars could be " bought retail at three shillings per pair, but sold readily a little later " for ten shillings. One would have thought that dealers would hasten to " buy every shipment offered at the low prices—for the Undulated Parra" keets only arrive between January and July—and would have kept them " until their price rose again. But the experience of former years had " taught dealers that it is far better to sell rapidly at a small profit in " preference to risking an epidemic and consequent total loss of the capi" tal invested. The birds imported in 1879 proved unusually healthy and " anyone buying them might have re-sold them within three months at "treble the amount paid for them. Notwithstanding the immense importa-"tion, few imported Budgerigars can be bought in the Autumn, and "the market is then supplied with young cage-bred birds."*

For a good many years the supply was kept up by the large consignments of Australian birds, which Wiener describes, home-breeding playing a comparatively small part and not producing nearly such fine specimens as those direct from their native land. Many of my readers will no doubt remember the wording of the advertisements of about that time,

"Real Australian Blue-legged birds, not common Continental cage-bred stuff."

At first, too, the birds seem to have been anything but free breeders, chiefly it seems because, accustomed as they were to the cycle of the Antipodean seasons, they usually commenced to incubate in our winter, with frequent egg-bind- and other ills, as well as weakling young, as the consequence.

Now all this is reversed. The supply is almost entirely kept up by home-bred birds, of which thousands must be reared in England alone every year, the import trade having gradually diminished, until nowadays a consignment of Budgerigars from Australia is distinctly a rare occurrence. When one remembers that the number bred on the continent vastly exceeds that which our own islands provide, one wonders where they all go to, but the demand seems a constant one. Nowadays, too, the birds have become quite accustomed to our seasons and go to nest at the proper season, although, if allowed, will breed nearly the whole year round, and as regards stamina and beauty most home-bred birds, unless reared under grossly improper conditions, are every bit as good as, if not better than, their ship-borne brothers. One feature only seems not to persist in aviary-bred birds, and this is the blue legs, at least I never seem to see the really deep blue colour either in my own or other present day birds which was so characteristic of imported, as opposed to home-bred birds of early days. This loss of colour, however, in the epidermal structures is common to nearly all 'cage-moulted' birds, British or Foreign. "French moult," a result of inbreeding combined with insanitary or unsuitable environment, which at one time was such a scourge, seems now to be a much rarer disease, no doubt because most Budgerigars are bred in aviaries and not in hutches or cages, as was often the case at first.

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* For some years during the nineties I kept a record of the prices at which various foreign birds were advertised, and these may be of interest in connection with those of 15 to 20 years earlier which Wiener gives Between 1894 and 1896 I find I have 6s. 6d. a pair as the lowest, and 16s. the highest price for real imported birds, with 8s. as the average. After 1896 I have no entries of imported birds, all the prices I have noted referring to aviary-bred stock. At this time two classes of this were apparently recognized among dealers, (1) the best, commonly advertised as "Antwerp birds," or "Antwerp-bred," the prices of which varied during the period from 1894 to 1898, from 10s. to 6s. a pair, and (2), what were usually advertised as "French," which always meant measly, badly feathered youngsters, if not actually birds in the last stages of "French moult." Their prices, varied from about six to three shillings a pair, and were certainly dear even at the last. I see that in this list I have yellows quoted at 40s. and 50s. during 1895, and 1897, at 30s. in 1898, at 30s., 25s., and 18s. 6d. in 1899 at 20s. 6d. in 1900, when my record ceases. (Note the odd sixpences; they fix the advertiser pretty well).

The present day price for good aviary-bred specimens may be considered to vary from 10s. to 6s. a pair, that is for buyers; for sellers a shilling to eighteenpence a head, dealers allowing themselves ample margin.

The case of my own birds may be taken as a fair average of results usually obtained, while the next quotation will touch on Budgerigars breeding *in excelsis*.

Starting with one pair in 1894, they have been breeding continuously ever since in a small garden aviary which they share with numbers of other small birds, British and foreign. They must be a good deal in-bred, as only seven new birds have been introduced, five between 1896 and 1901, three in 1908, but none since. The first season there was no sign of "French moult," but afterwards we began to get one or two badly feathered young. In 1906, I bought two cocks for three shillings each, the last "real Australians," by the way, I bought or remember to have seen, though they no doubt came in later and still do so, though at rarer intervals. The first year after they were introduced we had quite a lot of the horrid little wing- and tail-less results of this disease, the new arrivals presumably not having settled down sufficiently to take up their job. Next year, however, all was well again and we had no more bad youngsters till about 1908 when an odd one or two were hatched out and soon done away with. By this time, however, the general standard of the young had markedly decreased, but the introduction of a real good pair of Yellows, which started breeding at once, soon produced sufficient progeny to provide plenty of healthy stock, which have been mating ever since with the Greens as well as among their own colour, so that now our birds are a Green-Yellow cross, but each individual shows his proper colour, not a mixture of the two, though Yellow and Green young are sometimes found in one nest, the owners of which may be green or yellow, or one of each. The general result has been that we have had no "French moult" for years, and have a quite good-looking stock, though perhaps this year a slight deterioration is becoming noticeable again among the Greens.

One would have almost have expected that such prolific and hardy birds would have by now become acclimatised with us and be living wild in Europe, though whether such an addition to our avifauna would have been for the general good is distinctly doubtful, judging by what has happened with other wild birds and animals which have been successfully acclimatised elsewhere.

Gould considered that our climate and the food available was the chief factor against this, but the real hindrance is probably not so much the climate, etc., as the man with a gun, and the bird-catchers, professional and amateur. Plenty of instances of escaped Budgerigars living wild for long periods are on record; Dr. Greene, for instance, mentions a pair which brought up a brood of five young in a London Square, which when fully fledged were often seen with their parents disputing with the Sparrows for oats at a neighbouring cabstand, but whose ultimate fate was unknown. A larger and intentional experiment in this direction is described by Mr. C. P. Arthur, the noted English breeder of these birds in the *Feathered World* of January 2, 1903, in a letter in reply to an enquiry as to the number of young and whether seven was a record hatch. The whole communication, giving, as it does, the first-hand experience of an authority, is also so informative on other features of Budgerigar breeding, that I quote the whole, for it well deserves exhumation from the buried and almost forgotten files of past "fancy" journalism, for the benefit of present readers and for the general difusion of knowledge.

After informing the enquirer that a nest of seven is not so rare as he thinks, Mr. Arthur continues:

> "I have had several nests of seven this year. Three years ago I had a nest of nine, and in the year 1887 (the same year I bred the noted albino Budgerigars) I had a hen lay ten eggs, hatch, and rear them all; but four out of the ten left the nest with no long tail or flight feathers. I know they belonged to one hen only, as there were only six pairs in the aviary, and there were five other nests of young. Has Mr. Twittey **(the original enquirer.—E.H.)** noticed that Budgerigars feed their young at night? In passing my aviaries about two hours after dark, one can hear the smallest being fed, and and as time goes on, the older ones are fed, which is about four hours after dark.
>
> "One can very well tell when there are young Budgerigars in the nests if one walks quietly by the aviaries at night. Do Mr. Twittey's or anyone else's Budgerigars make a noise at night during November and December? I do not know if it has anything to do with their migratory instinct, as most birds call to each other while migrating at night, but my birds make more noise at night than in the day time. I have at present 536 Budgerigars, and about 500 of these are out of doors; 342 are in one aviary 30ft. by 6ft. and 7ft. high. It has a peculiar sound, 500 of these birds all warbling out-doors in pitch darkness; but what seems strange is that, if I or any of my family pass the aviaries at night, the birds take no notice, but a strange footstep causes instant silence. This seems to prove that birds, as well as animals, get to know a person's footsteps.
>
> "If not trespassing too much on your space, I will give the result of Captain Spicer's experiment with Budgerigars in a wild state. As I reported in the *Feathered World* I supplied the Captain with sixty pairs, which he kept in an open wire aviary for a fortnight, and then let them fly out at will. Previous to that a large number of husk nests were hung about round the house, as well as in the aviary. Many bred in the husks, but many took possession of the old decayed trees in the park, and nested in their natural way. Hundreds of young were reared and on the wing that summer, but when the autumn came, although they were fed, they all left except about twelve pairs, which came to feed through the winter. These must have gone to nest early in the year, as I had a young Budgerigar brought me to be stuffed the first week in March, that was shot in a garden six miles away from the park, and this bird could not have left the nest more than a week, as the blood was in the quills of the tail-feathers. Well, the second

"summer produced a lot more young ones, as they were continually seen "flying about with the parent birds, as well as coming to feed with "them, but when the autumn came they all seem to have left as not "as not a bird has been seen since. One would certainly think that those "that stayed the first winter would have remained. Budgerigars sometimes "live to a good old age, as I have just proved. Some of your readers "will remember the great importation of Budgerigars in the early part "of 1879. About 50,000 pairs were imported and sold in that year. "Cross, of Liverpool, and other large dealers, sold them at a guinea "a dozen, all cocks,* at least two dozen I bought were. Well, I sold "two of these identical birds to a man working on Captain Spicer's "estate, and when I delivered the sixty pairs this man called my attention "to the fact, and said the birds were then alive and well, and in beautiful feathers, so they must then have been at least twenty years old; but "I hear they have been dead now about two years."

(To be continued).

Some Colony Birds.

BY REV. CHAS. R. DAWSON, S.J. M.A. (OXON):

Reprinted from "TIMEHRI" (The Journal of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana), May, 1915; with compliments and thanks to the Author and Editors.—ED. "B.N."

(Continued from page 91).

THE BLACK MOCKING-BIRD. I found in the North West District a bird I have not yet been able to scientifically identify, but which is known locally as the Black Mockingbird. It is smaller than the foregoing and is entirely black. It congregates in great flocks by the waterside, making a great chattering; but builds its nest alone. I have found a great number of these nests up the creek at Morawhanna. They are woven of black roots or fibres and adorned with lichens and mosses; in shape they resemble a basket, and the handle is simply slung over a branch. The eggs, four in number, are white, covered with red spots. I secured a nest of young ones, and succeeded in rearing them. They were amusing creatures, shaking themselves prodigiously, when being fed and uttering surprisingly low-toned cries: cries that seemed to come from their boots, so to speak. The note of the old bird is loud, piercing and bell-like and when once heard in the creek is not easily forgotten. Unfortunately I had to leave the district before these young ones were fully developed and was unable to carry them away with me. There are no specimens or skins of this bird in the Museum.

THE GREAT RICE-BIRD. Allied to the Mocking-birds, but more closely so the Lazy-bird, described in my last article, is the Great Rice-Bird (*Cassidix oryzivora*), that is "the great cassique rice-devourer." This bird is as large as an English crow and as black; but it is more graceful in form with its slim body and dainty head. The beak is black, trim, and conical; the maxilla is rounded where it joins the skull, but not so prominently so as in the yellow-backs, etc. The eye is red. The sexes are more or less alike. The male is glossy purple-black; but has not the satiny sheen of its diminutive relative, the Lazy-bird, or, as it is known in scientific circles, the Common Rice-Bird. The hen has the same cuckoo habit of placing her eggs in the nest of another bird. The egg is like that of our English Thrush, but twice the size. A beautiful cock bird I had, was taken, by mistake, from the nest of a Yellow-back and reared by hand. When it could fend for itself, it made its home among the domestic fowls. It fed with them, fought with them, and after flying about all day, would roost with them at night. It would cluck like a hen and crow like a cock, and was so taken up with its novel companions that it never more showed any affection for the hand that had fed it in callow youth. I kept it in a large cage, but it never grew tame. When, however, a fowl approached it would show an affectionate concern, clucking and spreading out its feathers. As its specific name implies, it feeds exclusively on grain, showing a preference for paddy which it husks like a finch! Mine had the ingenuity to open the lid of its seed-box and thus save itself a good deal of trouble.

THE GUIANA BLACK-BIRD. The Guiana, or Demerara Black-bird (*Quiscalus lugubris*) is the size of the bird so named in England, and is as black, but otherwise has nothing in common. It has, in fact, all the habits of a Starling. It is glossy, dead-black, the only relieving colour being that of the eye which is almost white and gives the bird a ghostly look. As there are in the colony at least ten other birds entirely black, it is singularly misnamed. I propose to call it the *Rudder-tail* from a curious feature of that appendage, which I will describe. The tail, which is fairly long, opens out like a fan, and when it flies, the middle feathers drop a little and in consequence the tail seems to have assumed a perpendicular position like the rudder of a boat or the caudal fin of a fish, in point of fact, it becomes V-shaped. This feature marks it out at once from all the other birds of the colony and indeed from all other birds I know.

The Rudder-tail (as I proceed to call it) is very common along the Corentyne Coast and may be seen in pairs. A great number have established themselves about the grounds of the Berbice Asylum where they stalk about with all the self-assurance of legal proprietors. There they build their nests (huge affairs of sticks and straw) in orange trees, and low bushes well within the reach of most persons. The eggs, four in number, are whitish, with purple patches, streaks and blotches.

When I essayed to take a nest of youngsters, the whole tribe assembled and by loud cries and gestures showed the strongest disapproval of the procedure. The boldest of them flapped their wings almost in my face. I succeeded in rearing one of the young ones but it did not come up to my expectations in point of intelligence. Before it was fully mature it contrived to slip through the door of the cage, and, contrary to its Starling nature, never returned.

The *Quiscalus lugubris* derives its names from its voice; the former from a fancied resemblance of its note to that of a Quail (*quisquila*, a Quail, Lat.), and *lugubris*, mournful. Its note, however, is not more mournful than many other birds of its class. It has a way, something like the Yellow-backs, of lowering its head, dropping its wings and tail, and fluttering its feathers when it wishes to be admired, uttering at the same time several bell-like notes: *te-wit, te-wit, te-wit, yessir, yessir, what, sir?*"

A few years ago quite a number inhabited the trees along the Vlissengen Road; but since the construction of the new Race Course only a few remain.

THE REED BIRD. Of much the same size and build as the Rudder-tail is the Reed-bird or Yellow-head, as it is popularly called; but its habits are more retiring. He is clothed in a suit of velvet black with the exception of the head and neck which are yellow. He holds himself erect and has the appearance of a dandy in evening dress with a yellow face and wig instead of a white shirt-front. I am always expecting to see him drop a monocle and carefully adjust it again. There are black feathers around the eye and on the lore, which, together with the shape of the head and sharp beak, give him a foxy look. The scientific name, *Agelaeus icterocephalus*, "the gregarious icterus-head," suits him very well. The Icterus, after which the whole order of Mocking-birds is named (*Icteridae*) was a mythical yellow bird among the Greeks and Romans, the sight of which would cure a person of yellow-fever.

The Yellow-heads may sometimes be seen in large flocks among the rank reeds and rushes that grow along the rivers and in the marshy places. Hence its name. It feeds on seeds and at times does damage to the rice crops; but like most birds, it well repays the toll it takes by its usefulness in other respects. In a cage the bird wears the air of a dignified protest and the only note it utters is *dip-dip-dip*. I have never had an opportunity of rearing it from the nest and so I cannot say whether its demeanour would alter under these circumstances. Many birds can only be domesticated in this way. The sexes are alike except that the hen is smaller.

(*To be continued*).

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Editorial.

LONG-LIVED FINCHES: Mrs. Tinniswood Miller reports that this season she has lost her two veterans, viz.: Lavender-backed Finch (*Spermophila castaneiventris*), and Sydney Waxbill (*Aegintha temporalis*). I am not sure of dates, but the first named came into her possession in 1907, and is, I presume, the last of this species imported by our member Mr. E. W. Harper, in that year. The Sydney Waxbill was a veteran in 1907 and has been blind for several years, but quite able to find its food and water. We will supply dates in a later issue.

NESTING NOTES: From notes gleaned during a recent visit to Dr. Lovell-Keays and from his letters, he has every promise of a successful season. He still has quite a nice and numerous collection of birds, after selling such a large series at the end of last year. The following may be briefly noted as promising successful results:

Young Malabar Parrakeet in barrel doing well.

Zosterops (*Z. virens*) due to hatch.

Chaffinch (*F. coelebs*), sitting on four eggs, nest fairly typical and built in a Retinospora bush—we have a photo and hope to reproduce it in a near issue.

Rosella Parrakeets are busy with a brood. Dr. Lovell-Keays has great hopes his Purple Sugarbirds may do the right thing this season, they certainly look in "tip-top" breeding form. We also noticed pairs of Nuthatches, Creepers Long-tail and Blue Tits all put up for breeding. May the best of luck attend them.

Messrs. Bright, Haggie, and others also report promising prospects, many species prospecting, building, incubating, etc., such as: Peach-faced Lovebirds, various Grassfinches, Indian Greenfinch, etc.

AN AGED SHAMAH: Our member, the Hon. Mary C. Hawke informs us that her Shamah, over 14 years old, is in grand form, and singing as lustily as a young bird.

BLACK AND YELLOW HAWFINCH (*Mycerobas melanoxanthus*): In sending us the body of one of these, the same member comments on only having now one left out of the five sent her over privately in 1913. Mischances have accounted for most of them; there was only one true pair among them, and from these in 1914 she, by using Hedge Sparrows as foster parents, and considerable hand feeding, managed to fully rear one young bird (*vide* "B.N." Aug. 1914, page 275). They are grand birds, of typical hawfinch-form, with a beautiful garment of velvet-black and rich yellow. The sole surviving specimen has been out of doors all the winter, in a 4ft. square cage, which has a glass front, but no heat—so he must be quite a robust bird to thrive under such tratment in Yorkshire.

Correspondence.

NESTING OF JAYS, ETC.

Sir,—Last year my Peruvian Jay (♂) mated with my beautiful green and blue Mexican Jay. They built a nest, laid two eggs, from which they hatched out one chick; all went well for about ten days, when unfortunately they ate it. They have a large aviary to themselves and built in a bush high up. This year I have taken away their old nest and put in a box, shaped like a dog-kennel. I am hoping the hen may find this sufficient protection against the inroads of the male, as I am sure he was the culprit last year, he is very like a Magpie and fond of mice and small birds and the young one in the *open nest* proved too great a temptation for him to resist. The hen has already been in the box several times and both are carrying pieces of stick about. I thought of removing him when the hen was partly through incubation, but somewhat hesitate as the two are so devoted to each other. I give them plenty of cockroaches, of which they are very fond, and mice; also monkey-nuts

I have a lovely pair of Bearded Tits, they were out in the aviary all last summer and in perfect plumage. I have kept them caged all the winter, hanging their cage outside on suitable days. I am now going to let them out into the aviary and hope they may nest this season.

A pair of Yellow Budgerigars in the cottage portion of the aviary (in a large cage) successfully reared five young ones in January, and they now have their husk again full of young ones.

(Lady) N. L. F. DUNLEATH.

Ballywater Park, 16/4/'16

NESTING NOTE.

Owing to my change of residence I am without aviaries at present, and my friend Dr. Lovell-Keays has kindly lent me one of his aviaries, while mine are rebuilding, also is most kindly looking after the birds for me. I have seen them twice since they have been there and well indeed they look under his fostering care. My last visit was on Easter Monday, when the Pekin Robins were feeding young, the Black Tanagers prospecting, and the Grey-winged Ouzels incubating. A letter dated May 3rd reports that the young Pekins are feathering fast and will be "branchers" in a day or two if all goes well; one young Grey-winged Ouzel is doing well, and the Black Tanagers are incubating a clutch of eggs. A fairly promising beginning WESLEY T. PAGE.

Post Mortem Reports.

RAINBOW BUNTING (♂). (G. E. Haggie, Oxford). The cause of death of this beautiful bird was pneumonia. I am very sorry for your loss. In future try Vichy water in lieu of ordinary plain water as drinking water

STARLING (♀). (B. T. Stewart, Radlett). The cause of death was pneumonia.

MAGPIE MANNIKIN. (T. T. Barnard, Bedford). The cause of death was pneumonia, which is very prevalent during inclement weather and almost always fatal in birds.

GREATER SPOTTED WOODPECKER (♀). (The Hon. Mrs. Bourke, Taplow). This bird was affected with haemorrhagic enteritis, which is interesting because it was encountered in a bird at liberty. I did not find the presence of coccidia, which are a fruitful source of such a condition. Probably the disease was of an infectious origin. Perhaps the Missel-Thrush which you found in the same condition so far as symptoms were concerned was due to the same cause. Avian plague, coccidiosis and other infectious and protozoal diseases attack birds in nature.

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

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British Bird Calendar.

Arrival of migrants in S.E. Essex in Spring, 1916.

April 21st.—Chiff-Chaff, Hazeleigh, 6-15 a.m. Wind W.
,, 21st.—Gold-Crest, Hazeleigh, 9-45 a.m. Wind W.
,, 21st.—Cuckoo, Hazeleigh, 1-30 p.m Wind S.
,, 24th.—Swallow, Hazeleigh, 6 p.m. Wind S.W.
,, 25th.—Nightingale, Hazeleigh, 11-50 p.m. Wind S.
,, 26th.—Martin, Danbury.
,, 26th.—Blackcap.
,, 30th.—Tree-Pipit, Hazeleigh, 10-30 a.m. Wind S.E.

There is nothing remarkable about these dates, which are, however, by no means early. It may, however, be interesting to mention that the Nightingale was singing unconcernedly whilst a Zeppelin raid was taking place in the neighbourhood !

G.H.R., Hazeleigh, 30-4-'16

April 20th.—Cuckoo, Lingfield, Surrey, 6 a.m., heard continuously since, but most vociferous in early morning and late evening, also calls stronger about midday than at intermediate periods. W.T.P., Lingfield, 1-5-'16.

Photos. by W. Shore Baily.

Eastern Variegated Laughing-Thrushs.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

My Laughing Thrushes.

BY W. SHORE BAILY.

Not many aviculturists seem to have kept these interesting Thrushes, or if they have, they have published very little about them, either in the "Avicultural Magazine" or in "Bird Notes." I, myself have only had experience of the one species, viz.: the Eastern Variegated (*Trochalopterum variegatum*). These, to me, are the most charming of all the different species, and I have kept Blue Rock (*Monticola cyanus*), Red-legged Cuban (*M. rubriques*) Blue Cuban (*M. coerulescens*), as well as our English Blackbird, Ring Ousel, and Fieldfare. Unlike the Rock Thrushes they are not in the least shy, and are always on view and generally in very active movement, too. Neither are they quarrelsome with each other, or with other birds, as are both the Cuban, and all the English thrushes. In appearance they are striking looking birds, about equal in size to the Fieldfare. Their general colour is grey, in two or three shades, a patch around the eye and the throat black, a three cornered patch on each side of face dingy white; wings blue with a patch of black on the shoulders, and a black bar across primaries; base of tail feathers black, centre blue and tip white; under side of tail and lower breast rufous. They are indeed well named "Variegated." The general effect of the colouring is pleasing. I obtained these birds from Major Perreau in May, 1913. He brought over several other species at the same time, including *T. nigrimentum*, *T. lineatum*, *Dryonastes ruficollis*, and *D. caerulatus*, etc. These, I believe found their way, into various amateur aviaries, but I have not heard that any of them have been successful in rearing young in this country. My birds have been in out-door aviaries ever since I have had them, but have, so far, made no attempt at nesting, although I have occasionally seen them carrying straws, etc. They are very playful and affectionate with each other. One of their favourite games is a kind of follow-my-leader steeplechase. They will select a perch, high up in one corner of the aviary, from which they will plane down with wings and tail expanded to the other extremity of their enclosure, returning along the ground by a series of hops, skips, and bounds, finally running up the wire like cats until they are again at their starting point. Each bird exactly follows the other in all its turnings. They will repeat this many times, and then take a rest side by side, the wing of the male covering the back of the female, and cuddling so closely together, that they look exactly like a two-headed bird. I have often tried to get a photo of them in this interesting pose, but so far have not succeeded. It is generally believed that these birds are wicked with their smaller companions, but my two have been kept with Waxbills and similar small fry, and have taken no notice of them, neither have they, as far as I know, been guilty of egg stealing. Of course this good behaviour may cease and if they start housekeeping on their own account, I can well believe that such active birds would then be a serious nuisance in any aviary where smaller birds were kept. In many ways they remind me of our Jay. Their flight is very similar and their general colouring is not unlike. They are also continually giving tongue, a characteristic of both the Jay and Magpie. They also when excited or angry erect the feathers on the head, giving them the appearance of being crested. At present I have them in a very large enclosure, containing a pond at one side, with a row of conifers on the other and a large space of grass in the centre, so that they have greater convenience for nesting than they have had in any previous season here, and as it contains comparatively few other birds and none bigger than themselves, there really is no excuse for their not attempting to reproduce their kind. Should they do so, I hope to send a detailed account at the end of the season.

Since writing the above I have had the ill luck to lose one of these fine birds, I think from heat apoplexy, so no nesting record can now be looked for.

Bird Catching in India.

By Douglas Dewar, F.Z.S., I.C.S.

(*Continued from page* 124).

In the breeding season the professional partridge catchers issue forth and collect all the eggs they can find and hatch them under domestic hens. Young Partridges can run the moment they leave the egg, but when first hatched their movements are slow so that many of the young birds are captured by those searching for eggs.

As every one knows, captive Partridges become very tame. No sight in India is commoner than that of a Partridge running along the road after its master, who carries its cage. Sometimes these tame birds are taken out into the fields where their cries attract wild birds which at once begin to fight them. When engaged in the fight the wild bird is captured by throwing a net over it or even by seizing it with the hand.

A method of snaring Partridges, Peafowl, and even Crows which is largely resorted to in Rohilkand is to make a number of nooses of twisted horsehair. Each of these nooses, which must be sufficiently stiff to stand upright, is attached to a wooden peg. The pegs are connected with one another by means of string, some two feet of string separating each peg. When all is ready the *shikarí* winds the string, to which the pegs and nooses are attached round his waist. He then sallies forth with a pony, until he comes near the place where his prospective victims are feeding. The next step is for him to crouch behind the pony and quietly push the pegs into the ground, so that, when the operation is finished, he has set up a line of upright nooses projecting from the ground. He then moves on and makes a circuit so as to put the quarry between himself and the line of nooses. The final step is to drive the victims to the nooses—a feat not difficult to accomplish.

Another method of securing Partridges is similar to that used for Quail, namely by setting up a net at the end of a field, attracting the victims to the field by means of call birds and then driving them into the net.

Major Godwin Austen gives the following account of the way in which Partridges and Pheasants are caught in the Daphla Hills." As it is the habit of these birds to get down low at night into the warmer ravines, and feed upwards along the crests of the spurs, the bird-catcher stops the progress of the covey by a zig-zag barrier from two to three feet high, made up of twigs and short pieces of bamboo stuck into the ground, which is rapidly formed and extended a short distance down the hill on either side. Narrow openings are left here and there, generally at the angles, and in each of these a noose is set just above two cross sticks and in the same plane, at the height of the bird's breast. The noose string is made of a thin strip peeled off the outside of a bamboo." He remarks that in a few hours hundreds of these barriers and nooses can be set.

In the issue of the *Indian Field*, dated October 28th, 1909, a writer describes a method adopted by *Kabulis* for catching Chakor. The *shikari* envelopes himself in a *burka* - the garment worn by *parda nash'n* women when they go out walking. The *burka* in question is a yellow one heavily spotted with black. On nearing his quarry the disguised *Kabuli* goes along on all fours. The Chakor mistakes him for a leopard, and as they hate that quadruped, the first bird to see him raises a great uproar. This attracts many of its neighbours. These hop and dance about, screaming at the "leopard" which moves towards the place where numbers of nooses have been set.

Dr. Henderson states that the natives of Yarkand capture Chakor in a very sporting manner. They disdain snares and cages. Parties of them go out armed with whips and mounted on ponies. Having sighted a covey of Chakor they at once give chase and, as these birds never rise more than twice, they can be overtaken and knocked over with whips. Those acquainted with the country will appreciate the sporting nature of this mode of capturing the birds.

But most methods of Indian *shikaris* are anything but sporting!

In Madras I once came upon a horse-hair noose set beside the nest of a Grey Partridge. The nest contained eggs, and the object of the noose was to snare the mother bird when going to or coming from the nest.

Many are the devices employed to capture Ducks and other water-fowl. A time-honoured method is for a man to put on his head a *garra* (earthenware pot), having made holes in its side to look through. He then goes into the water and stoops so that his body is completely submerged, and the *garra*, which rests on his shoulders looks as though it were floating on the surface of the water. In this manner he very slowly approaches the Duck that are feeding or sleeping on the water. These either do not notice the approach of the *garra* or regard it as being borne along by the stream. Having got near enough to a Duck, the man with the pot on his head seizes it by its feet, pulls it under water and then secures it without a *quack* and almost without a splash! In the time of the Emperor Akbar, instead of the earthen pot, the skin of some water-fowl was used to hide the head of the bird-catcher.

"Raoul" in *Small Game Shooting in Bengal* mentions two other methods of catching Duck which I have not witnessed and so cannot vouch for their accuracy. According to him, in Kashmir a Falcon is trained to seize Duck and to bring them to the hunter, or hold them down on the water till the *shikari* comes up. This last method, if it be practised, can apply only to the non-diving Ducks.

The other method of approaching Duck noted by "Raoul" is "to let water-buffalo go into the water, between which the hunter conceals himself and thus catches the Ducks." A method of snaring Ducks commonly employed in the United Provinces is to place two bamboos over a spot where the Geese fly low when approaching their feeding ground.

Another method of securing Geese is to drive a number of small pegs into the ground where Geese are known to feed: to each of these pegs is fastened a noose of twisted horse-hair. The legs of the feeding birds become entangled in the nooses.

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Bird Life and Sport on Achill Island.

By Frank Dawson-Smith.

Birds did not provide the only sport and means of furnishing our larder, as we bagged a couple of hares, too. We relied on our guns for replenishing the larder, you see. We gathered the day's spoil together and commenced to wend our way homeward. In climbing over the mountain ridge which separated us from Dugort, we disturbed a few grouse, but these were, of course, permitted to depart unharmed, as their particular season was over. Their curious cry "Go back, go back" reached us as they disappeared in the failing light. Another game bird that inhabits Achill is the Woodcock. This handsome bird is usually found on the mountain sides, and generally in a tuft of heather, sheltered from the wind. On being disturbed it darts out and away like an arrow. We found a good number of 'cock on the steep sides of Slievemore and they proved easier targets than the snipe. While I am talking of Slievemore I may add that if one wishes to experience the full force of a storm let him climb to the top of this mountain on a rough day as I did. Michael and I were here through the height of a storm and I am not likely to forget it in a hurry. The raging wind came sweeping across the Atlantic, and the blinding stinging sleet came with such resistless violence, that it was impossible to stand against it. We crouched behind a friendly ledge of rock and clung like limpets until the fury of the hurricane had passed. A storm on this coast is a magnificent spectacle. There comes to one the mad exhilaration of encountering a mighty power titanic and inconquerable. But it was an exhausting experience!

Then we spent a day at Inishbiggle Island which is separated from Achill by a channel about sixty yards wide. Here we were joined by Michael one fine morning. This end of Achill is called Bull's Mouth, and close at hand is a small rush-grown pool, which is invariably full of snipe. If you toss a stone in it is no exaggeration to say that a flock of Snipe will rise. We secured several of these birds, but we had a surprise here, too. Disturbed by the reports of our gun a Mallard rose, and I brought it down with one shot. Returning to the Bull's Mouth we noted that it was a habitation beloved by the sea-birds. Hundreds of Gulls—Herring, Black-backed, Common, Black-headed, and Kittiwakes, could be seen as they floated and wheeled in the air. I could hear the deep notes of a Heron in the distance, while a number of Oyster-catchers could be seen, their plumage and vermilion legs making them very conspicuous.

After crossing to Inishbiggle in a boat we walked to the far end of that island where we found another channel separating us from a third island. This was our final destination. We piled up some loose stones to act as a shelter, sat down behind it, and waited for the birds to pass up and down the channel as was their wont, from one feeding ground to another, as the places were uncovered by the tide. The first visitors were little Dunlins, which came by with great speed. Then the larger and slower flying of Bar-tailed Godwits followed. Odd Oyster Catchers continually flew up and down, squeaking noisily, evidently indignant at our intrusion. Close to us were two Turnstones, very prettily marked, busily engaged in a hunt for food. They ran here and there on their little short legs, dashing on to the spot momentarily left bare by a receding wave, made a quick jab into the sand with their bills and scurried back in retreat before the water flowed in again. In the Channel itself was a large bird of sombre hue. There was no difficulty in recognizing this as a Cormorant. These birds swim very low in the water, and appear to keep only their heads and necks unsubmerged. Many of these Cormorants passed us during the morning, and so did that other splendid diver,—the Red-throated Diver. The Cormorants usually floated down treating us with perfect unconcern, but the Divers were shyer, and dived before they got level with us, not re-appearing until they were some way down the Channel. It is marvellous what long distances these birds can travel under water. It is small wonder that they are able to catch a great number of fish.

A beautiful bird is the Golden Plover. We were fortunate enough to see a small flock of them during the morning. After passing us they settled for a short time on a patch of sand about a hundred yards away, and we were able to watch them before they changed their quarters.

The next arrivals were two Ducks, who flew rapidly down towards us with necks outstretched. Here was a chance we had been waiting for, and the two succeeding reports were answered by a couple of splashes as the Ducks fell into the Channel. With the aid of a handy boat we quickly picked up the birds, and found they were Red-breasted Mergansers useless for eating, owing to their fishy flavour, but handsome birds. Mergansers are rather shy birds and make off at the first appearance of danger, either by diving, at which they are very expert, or else by winging their flight to safer pastures.

We stayed at our stone shelter until the afternoon and then clambered back to the other side of Inishbiggle, crossed the Channel at Bull's Mouth, and took up fresh positions on the shore. Our object was to shoot some of the destructive Cormorants that were accustomed to pass down this Channel in the late afternoon.

We found they were already passing in ones, twos, and threes, with an average of half a minute between each party. Mixed with them were a number of Red-throated Divers, but it was the Cormorant that we wanted to shoot, and they certainly kept us busy. We were kept firing continually for nearly an hour, and brought down a large number of Cormorants. The winter's day was drawing to a close and it behoved us to make a start from Bull's Mouth, although we still had ideas of further sport on our minds. On the way back to Dugort was a small lake close to the sea. In the evening just as dusk descended, geese flew to this spot from the sea, and we agreed we might conclude our day's adventures with a bit of "flighting." We had not long to wait before a number of geese whirled over our heads. They caught us napping, and not a shot was fired. We braced ourselves in the expectation of a similar visit, and within five minutes a second flight passed overhead, and a successful shot from my gun brought down a Brindle Goose. After that we had to get back home, but well content with the day's experiences.

Every day of my stay brought equally interesting adventures, and the variety of birds was bewildering. Snipe, Woodcock, Plover, Pigeons, Geese, Ducks, Swans, and Hares gave us all the sport we required, and filled our larder daily. Added to this was the variety of species to be studied from an aviculturist's point of view, and the scenery to gloat over and admire. We climbed the mountains, roamed the moors, and bogtrotted "from morn till dewy eve," in all weathers, always accompanied by the invaluable Michael. In addition to his varied abilities, in other respects he kept us interested with stories of the picturesque Achill natives and their manifold superstitions. These people live in single-storied thatched cottages, and usually cultivate a small patch of land, and keep a few fowls, ducks, and geese. And this reminds me of one of Michael's yarns:

A farmer visitor to the Island made a bet that he would shoot a goose during his stay. But the final day of this visit arrived without his desire being fulfilled. It looked as if he had lost his bet. "Was he downhearted? No-o-o!" He vowed he would shoot his goose that day, and he kept his word. Raising his gun he shot a tame one, paid the damage, and won his bet.

A Naturalist can find sufficient material to occupy his time all the year round on Achill, which is a paradise for a great number of birds of varied species. The fisherman, too, can secure many a fine trout, while the artist, photographer, pedestrian, and climber are all generously catered for by Dame Nature, in this wild and beautiful spot.

There is but one class of visitor for whom no welcome exists—the rent collector! If he is a wise man he will give Achill a wide berth. If a member of that ilk thinks of starting business on the Island, let him take my tip, and make his will first!

At length the end of my stay came, all too soon, and we drove away to Achill Sound, on our return journey to England, I, for my own part, filled with regret for the delights, the beauty, and interest I was leaving behind me, and registering a vow that I would some day revisit the island that bore the splendid hall-mark of Nature, untouched and unspoiled.

That evening found us in Dublin, strolling down Sackville Street—a city teeming with human life and sounds, a startling change from our beloved island. Achill Island was also filled with life and sound, but it was bird life and bird sound, in ever-changing beauty and melody, rugged and harsh occasionally—sweet and melodious too, and making one harmonious whole. And so, farewell to Achill Island and the Emerald Isle! "It's a long, long way."

In these strenuous days those peaceful weeks seem very far away. We are told that nothing will ever be the same again after the devastating war, but—well, I hope I may go back some day to Achill, and find the face of Nature unchanged when next I visit dear Dugort and the Irish mountains.

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The Endurance of Birds.

BY THE MARQUIS OF TAVISTOCK.

A number of articles have appeared recently dealing with the endurance of birds in captivity. The following, which are my own experiences with certain *psittaci* may be of some interest to those who keep them.

1. COMPLETE LIBERTY.

Losses from straying, accident, and birds of prey—heavy (losses from straying can, however, be much reduced by patience and careful management).

Losses from infectious disease—moderate.

Losses from cold and chills—small.

Losses from egg-binding—equal to what are incurred with captive birds

Breeding results—good.

Fertility of eggs—very good.

2. LIBERTY WITH A CUT WING IN A LARGE (uncovered) GRASS ENCLOSURE.

Losses from accident—small if care be taken to prevent birds fighting and falling from a height on to the hard ground, or against hard obstacles

Losses from infectious disease—small, if new arrivals are carefully quarantined and the ground is periodically disinfected with salt dressings.

Breeding results not properly ascertained, but some indication that they might be good.

3. UNHEATED OUTDOOR AVIARY, fairly sheltered from wind, but damp and sunless in winter. Shelter-shed (used by the birds for roosting), one half of the front boarded up from the top to bottom.

Losses from accident very small.

Losses from infectious disease very small.

Losses from cold and chill—in winter so heavy that the birds were removed.

4. SMALL, UNHEATED, COVERED AVIARY; glass roof, rather draughty and with great fluctuations of temperature.

Losses from chill extremely heavy, aviary useless for ordinary birds.

5. SMALL UNHEATED OUTDOOR AVIARY. Entirely covered in and draught-proof; rather sunless.

Losses from accident—nil

Losses from infectious disease—nil.

Losses from cold and chill—nil.

Nesting results—fair.

Hatching results—very poor.

6. SMALL UNHEATED OUTDOOR AVIARY. Shelter-shed (used by birds for roosting) one half of the front boarded up from top to bottom. Sunny situation.

Losses from accident very small.

Losses from infectious disease nil.

Losses from chill—small.

Breeding results—not yet ascertained.

7. LARGE COVERED AVIARY. Moderately heated in winter, temperature varying to some extent with out-door weather.

Losses from accident moderate

Losses from infectious disease—moderate.

Losses from chill very high.

Breeding results—good, eggs fertile.

8. MODERATELY HEATED INDOOR SHELTER, with out-door flight. Birds roost indoors.

Losses from accident small.

Losses from infectious disease small.
Losses from chill very heavy.
Breeding results good.

9. BIRDS KEPT IN OUTDOOR AVIARIES IN SUMMER, IN WINTER caught up and kept in roomy cages in a hot room (temperature 70 deg. to 75 deg.). Temperature lowered before birds are turned out in April.

Losses from accident small.

Losses from infectious disease small.

Losses from chill small, and nil among the birds newly turned out in spring, even when the weather turned cold and unfavourable.

Nesting results few.

Hatching results very poor, although the cock birds appeared in vigorous breeding condition.

To sum up; my experience *with Parrots* is this. The moderately heated aviary, and the heated shelter with out-door flight are alike most dangerous, and productive of enteritis and pneumonia *ad. lib.* No heat and no draughts give good results, with acclimatized birds, but a really open aviary must be sunny in winter. If you must have heat have a lot of it and keep the temperature even if you can.

Exercise is most important if you want to secure fertile eggs, and no amount of good care and good feeding will make up for the want of it with many species.

[Mr. Page hopes to resume his notes on this topice in next issue. —ED.]

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The History of the Budgerigar

BY E. HOPKINSON, D.S.O., M.A., ETC.

(*Continued from page* 130).

So much then for the Budgerigar as Nature made him. Let us now see what our authorities have to say with regard to the colour varieties, of one of which, the Yellow, examples have been caught wild in their native land. Dr. Russ in his "Speaking Parrots" (I quote from an English translation published in the eighties), says:

> "Just as the Canary needed a comparatively long space of time "for its complete naturalisation among us; and again, as we are not

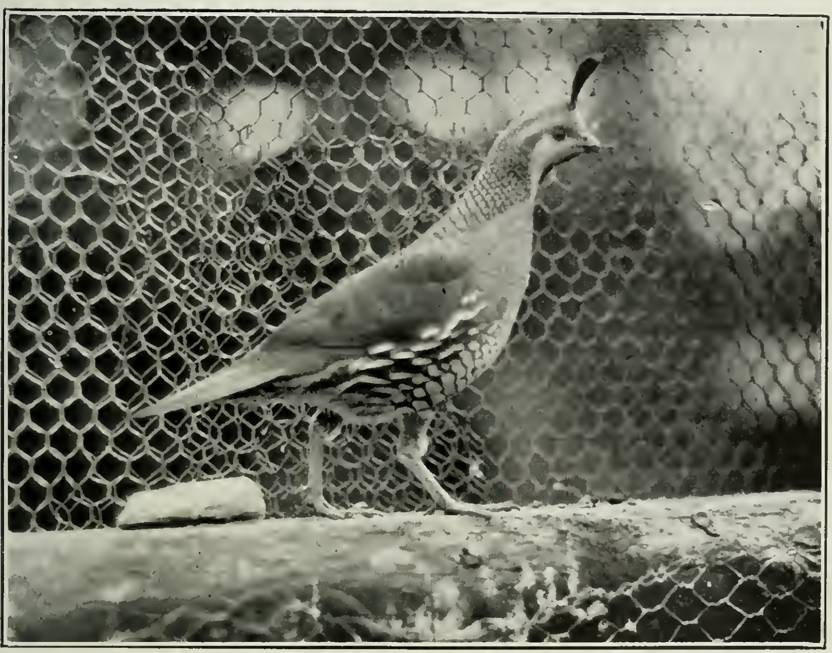

Photo. W. Shore Baily.

Hybrid Squamata × Californian Quail.

An account of the successful rearing of this handsome hybrid in 1912 will be found in "Bird Notes" for that year. These hybrids proved fertile, for in 1913 a full brood of their progeny were reared, but unfortunately just as they were in full plumage, they all died from some infectious malady. For his success in rearing this hybrid, Mr. Baily received the bronze medal of the Société d' Acclimatation de Paris, also the Club medal.

"really able to determine with exactness when the change from the "greenish-grey plumage of the wild bird to the light yellow of the cultivated bird took place, or whether, indeed, several centuries were required to bring it about—in the same way the Grass Parrakeet shows "itself to be peculiarly subject to the influences of development in breeding. Less than fifty years have sufficed for it to appear before us, "not only in varieties of colouring, but as a speaker. From the original "variety we bred a yellowish-green, next a pure yellow was produced "and afterwards a white variety—the last two had red eyes. Eventually "a blue specimen was generated."

In his larger work this author gives 1872 as the date of the first appearance of the yellow form, and describes several varieties of this colour, one of which was a pure yellow with red eyes, an albino, or rather as such are called now, a lutino. Whether the white Budgerigars mentioned above were really white or identical with these lutinos, I cannot quite make out owing to my little acquaintance with German. Dr. Russ' style, too, is most difficult to follow and his exact meaning often obscure, but I gather he had heard of real albinos as well as the red-eyed Yellows. What became of them? The Blue variety is also dealt with but without much real detail.

Wiener, who no doubt was well acquainted with his fellow-countryman's works, writes on the varieties as follows: (Cassell, p. 435).

"Of late years varieties of the Undulated Parrakeets have been "bred with increasing frequency. More or less pure yellow birds have "been bred, mostly in Belgium. Since the first edition I have seen "for the first time pure yellow Undulated Parrakeets bred by Mr. Joseph "Abrahams from yellow parent birds obtained, I believe from Belgium. "Although these yellow birds were amongst dozens of green Budgerigars, "and nothing prevented their cross-breeding, they seemed to have bred "only among themselves. Even a blue variety has occurred, and at "least one breeder has, through careful selection of stock, produced "a breed of unusual size. Without doubt another ten or twenty years "will witness as great results of intelligent breeding of varieties of the "Budgerigar as has been witnessed in the case of the Canary."

Dr. W. T. Greene, in his "Amateur's aviary," says that it is stated that a blue variety has been produced more than once, and of the yellow form writes as follows (p. 33).

"Of late years, a breed of Yellow Budgerigars has been pro- "duced, a pair of this colour, in which the characteristic undulations "were very faint, were exhibited some years ago (**i.e. in relation to "1883, the date of the publication of his book. E H**). at the Alexandra "Palace Show, and were sold for £6 10s."

The only fact or date in connection with these colour varieties which stands out prominently is that Yellow Budgerigars appeared in or about 1872, and that they were produced gradually from the original greens. The rest is all very indefinite; the albinos apparently were chance-got freaks, which did not perpetuate their kind, while of the blue all that one can learn is that they were known before 1880. To put it crudely—someone had bred some somewhere at some time.

At the present day we have the yellow race firmly established as healthy freely breeding birds, having rapidly passed through the stage of delicacy, which was common both to them in their earlier stages and to their green relations when first known. Now in most flocks there is a good deal of Yellow blood, without, however, affecting the distinctness of the two colours in the individual. Dr. Butler in "Foreign Birds for Cage and Aviary," written 1909 or 1910, mentions the greater delicacy of the Yellows, so that this change for the better in their constitutions is one of quite recent development. The Blue form, he tells us, he has never yet seen, though it was well known to Mr. Abrahams, who considered it, like the yellow, the result of in-breeding. Dr. Butler believes it was more probably the result of just the opposite treatment, and that it should be extremely vigorous. This belief has, I am afraid, not been borne out by the experience of the owners of the present race of these birds.

Another of the anticipations of the writers I have quoted regarding the possibilities of the Budgerigar emulating the Canary as regards multiplicity of varieties, has also hitherto not been fulfilled, in spite of the numbers bred. I expect the truth is that what occurs with my own birds, also occurs with other people's. When the time for disposal of the surplus comes, one cannot think of selection for the room is wanted much more than the birds, with the result that all the easily recognisable young ones and all the adults which are not obviously nesting are caught and disposed of. Improvement in breeding is not likely to occur where these methods prevail.

We now come to what we may call the Blue Budgerigar period, which has received full attention in recent volumes of *Bird Notes*, on which I propose to freely draw.

At the L.C.B.A. Show in November, 1910 Monsieur Pauvvels exhibited a perfect pair, the first appearance on the English Show bench. They were the admired of every eye, and as was only their due, took premier honours.

In *Bird Notes* of January, 1911, Mr. O. Millsum, who was then in charge of M. Pauvvels' wonderful aviaries, gave a full and most interesting paper (illustrated by a perfect plate) on this variety, which is so full of information and interest, that I quote it almost *in toto*. After mentioning that that he had known of the existence of Blue Budgerigars* without ever expecting to see them in the flesh, he continues:

*An article from the Standard of March 21, 1914, is reprinted in *Bird Notes*, 1914, p. 139, in which the existence of Blue Budgerigars nearly a generation ago was referred to, the writer believing that they appeared nearly as early as the Yellow variety. He continues:

> "Possibly, however, this variation has also appeared more than "once, and in any case the fact remains that, in spite of the high prices "obtainable for Blue Budgerigars, the breed of this colour has not been "multiplied greatly, and the specimens that turn up are generally very "weakly-looking. This is curious as they seem nearer the typical bird "than the yellow breed, having the same black pencilling; but one difficulty in breeding them appears to be that females "among blues are "produced much more freely than males, so that it is difficult to get the "latter mates of their own colour, and much in-breeding has probably "been practised, "a proceeding particularly injurious to these little Parra-"keets, hardy as their constitution is."

(*To be continued*).

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Some Colony Birds.

By Rev. Chas. R. Dawson, S.J. M.A. (Oxon):

Reprinted from "TIMEHRI" (The Journal of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana), May, 1915, with compliments and thanks to the Author and Editors. Ed. "B.N."

(*Continued from page* 133).

Doves. There are twelve or more species of Doves indigenous to the colony. I may say in passing that the terms *Dove* and *Pigeon* are interchangeable. As a general rule the smaller and gentler species are called Doves, the larger and bolder, Pigeons. The word Pigeon is derived from the French (O. F. Pijon) and means (Lat., pipio) a young piping bird. The word Dove is from the old English *dujan*, to dive: a word which may have reference to its undulating flight, for needless to say, neither Pigeons nor Doves dive into water. All observers of Nature must have seen a flock of Pigeons, disturbed from their feeding ground, rise in a body and diving, as it were, into the bush, disappear.

Doves and Pigeons are to be found all over the world. They are homogeneous in form and feature and their habits are much the same. There are in all five hundred species.

SAVANNAH GROUND DOVE. Of the Ground Doves (*Peristeridae*) seen in Georgetown, the Savannah Ground-Dove is the largest as it is the commonest. Its scientific name from the Greek, *Chamaepelia talpacoti*, means "the ground bird that scares the mole!" It is from six to seven inches in length, the bill being half an inch and the tail an inch and a half beyond the wings. The bird is a uniform pinkish red, fading into pink on the throat and cheeks; the crown of the head is cloud-grey. There are downward lines of black or blue-black upon the wings like the jottings of a pen; the under-wing coverts are black as also the under-feathers of the tail; the primaries are blackish-brown. The eye is red and the feet, of course, pink. The Indians call it *wihi* which means "shaven" and in truth the head has that appearance, being small, smooth, and light in colour. The hen is brown with corresponding markings.

The Dove is gentle and timid, living amicably with smaller birds, though it defends itself with its wings should they shew themselves aggressive. Little finches if placed in the same cage will take advantage of its gentle disposition, and sidling up, will pluck a small feather and then, *mirabile dictu*, swallow it!

THE SPECKLED DOVE. The speckled Ground-Dove (*Chamaepelia passerina*) is smaller, being barely six inches in length. It is brown-pink, fading into pink on breast, throat, and head; and into white on the vent. The feathers of the breast, head, and neck are centred with dull black giving the bird a speckled or scaly appearance. There are spots of purple-black upon the wings in irregular lines; the under-wings are red, the primaries also are red, edged and tipped with black; the under-feathers of the tail are also of this colour. There is a rim of minute feathers around the eye in lieu of eye-lashes. The hen is duller and smaller but is otherwise marked the same.

The bird is common in country districts and may be seen in open places, bustling about in a business-like manner in search of small seeds, and holding its tail at an ascending angle to keep it out of the way. Besides cooing, as all Doves do, it has a curious note when alarmed like a tiny bark of a dog, "*whuh-whuh-whuh.*"

THE TINY GROUND-DOVE. There is another Dove a little smaller still, *Chamaepelia minuta* or *griseola*, that is bluish. It is much like the Speckled Dove but has no speckled breast. The breast is pinkish blue, fading into white on throat and vent. The cheeks also are whitish, the crown of the head, nape, and shoulders bluish; as also the upper tail coverts. The back and wings are pinkish brown, and on the wings are a few purple jottings. The tail is grey tipped with darker colour; the under-wings are red; the primaries are red, but light brown on the outer edges and ends of the feathers. The hen is light brown generally with lighter breast and vent; the feathers of the back are edged with lighter colour; the bastard wing is red and there are a few black jottings on the wings. These three species live together peaceably in a cage, feeding and roosting together as if they recognized their near affinity. Their nests may often be found in low trees near human habitations, or even upon the creeper that grows on the wall. They will nest in captivity under favourable conditions.

THE COMMON THRUSH. One may wake up in Demerara and fancy oneself back in England aroused by the familiar notes of a Thrush. A few minutes of drowsy attention, however, will be sufficient to dispel the illusion. The song is not so well sustained as that of the home bird; there are lazy intervals between every few notes, and there is not the same vigour and variety. We have been listening to the song of the common colony Thrush (*Merula albiventer*), a welcome though poor substitute for our own king of song.

After the kiskadee, no bird is so much in evidence as the Thrush. He may be seen on our lawn pulling worms, or flying low from tree to tree uttering a low-toned note of alarm, something like our English Black-bird: "*What's this? What, what, what, what's that? Cher, cher, cher, cher.*"

In many respects, indeed, it is nearer the Black-bird than the English Thrush despite its colour. It is slightly larger, being seven or eight inches in length and is a little fuller in body. It is the plainest of plain birds, the prevailing colour being earthy brown, inclined to red on back and wings, greyish on the breast, and fading into white on the vent; hence its ungainly scientific name "White-vented-Thrush." The throat is white with downward streaks of brown; the under-wing coverts are light russet-red; the iris of the large, prominent eye, is reddish brown. The sexes are alike. Young Thrushes have spots of darker colour upon their breast, which fade away when they approach maturity. Hence perhaps has arisen the deeply-rooted conviction that the colony Thrush is descended from English parents imported into the colony some fifty years ago. This, perhaps, and the fact that there is nothing peculiarly tropical about *albiventer*. Like our English Kingfisher, it seems to have strayed out of its proper lattitude.

This colony Thrush is semi-domesticated, frequenting our gardens and building its conspicuous nest in accessible places, such for instance as the top of the pillars that support our dwellings in this mosquito zone. The nest is like that of our Blackbird, though not so neatly made, and the eggs, two in number, are hardly distinguishable from the same black relative. No one seems to keep the Thrush in a cage. I have a pair which I reared from the nest; but they are not tame now, dashing about the cage like mad-caps when I approach; and, screaming at the top of their voices, they peck, fight and struggle when I take them in my hand. But they feed well and are healthy. I had hoped better things and more intelligence from them, for when they were barely reared themselves, one of them would feed some rudder-tails, a little younger, which for convenience I had put into their cage. But Dame Nature has given all young birds an irresistibly appealing cry when they are hungry; and when are they not? These Thrushes are very pugnacious among themselves, and no bird of equal or smaller size can be kept in the same cage. The pair I have, reared together, although not from the same nest, have occasionally terrific encounters, first one and then the other gaining the ascendency.*

There is another Thrush very like this, called the Grey-breasted Thrush; but I hope to write about that in a subsequent article. It may be distinguished from this by its under-wings, which are grey, and not russet-red.

THE GOD-BIRD. Even more familiar in its semi-domesticated habits than the Thrush is the charming little colony Wren yclept the God-bird (*Troglodytes musculus*). It receives its generic name (Greek, one who creeps into holes and crevices), and its specific name, "the little mouse," from its mouse-like way of running about trunks of trees, under the eaves of houses and other places in search of spiders of which it is very fond.

It is first cousin to our English wren which it greatly resembles in colour and form. But it is more engaging in its habits, being in this respect our robin out here. He will come into our houses in a confidential way, chuckling greetings as he goes. Sometimes he brings his wife and then the pair of them will go running along the pictures and shelves on a tour of inspection, making comments to each other; and now and then the little lord will break out into a song just to relieve his merry little soul. The song is a catch of twelve or more notes with a preliminary strophe on a lower key. I have noticed that he repeats the same arrangement of notes many times; but he changes it at intervals. Perhaps he tunes up each morning for the day.

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*NOTE. Since writing the above one of these thrushes has come to a tragic end. As they were always fighting, I separated them. Accidentally I left open the door of the cage of the hen. A wild thrush got in, the door slipped down, the birds fought. I returned to find my poor hen literally scalped and the intruder with its beak broken.

He is called the God-bird on account of his predilection for churches when choosing a site for his nest. I took a nest from a country church that was simply built upon a beam in a corner. The young ones were too shy to take food from my hand, being past the age when birds open their mouths to everything. I carried them to the gallery of the house some twenty yards distant and the parents did the work of feeding, making much noise and revealing much of their interesting and lovable character in the process. In the end I gave them their liberty, for they would not take the various kinds of food I offered and I could not subject them to suffragetic treatment with their delicate mouths.

As I said in a former article, it is chiefly the God-bird that is seized upon by the Lazy-bird to be wet-nurse to its babes; and it is no uncommon sight to see a pair feeding their great foster-child which with pitiful cries follows them about, long after it should have relieved them of the burthen of its support. Yet, after all, it is only carrying out the traditions of its family. Heredity is strong in the animal world. The God-bird is slightly larger than our Jenny Wren. Its beak also is longer in proportion and the bird is not so deeply-red. The throat and breast, indeed, are almost white; light reddish brown at the sides. The feathers on tail and wings are transversely barred with darker colour; a feature common among Wrens; and the feet are large. It has an alternate specific name of *furvus*, that is, dark or gloomy: a libel on the character of this singularly bright and sprightly creature.

THE COTTON BIRD. Flying along the trenches on the outskirts of the city, the Cotton-bird is a conspicuous object. I presume that it derives its name from its appearance, for seated on some bush beside its favourite trench, it might be mistaken for some fully-grown cotton pod. It is a small bird hardly five inches in extreme length, and being of an unobtrusive and prosaic nature might easily be unobserved but for its colour. For the body of the bird is pure white, and the tail, wings, back of the head and the upper part of the back, black. The lower wing coverts as also the rectrices are tipped with white. It has the appearance of wearing a cap pushed back from the forehead. and a black cloak slipped over the shoulders. It is known scientifically as the Black-and-White Tyrant Bird (*Fluvicola pica*); but there is nothing tyrannical about its nature. It is one of those birds which from its habits and environment has acquired the peculiarities of a bird of another order. It has, in fact. the habits of our Water Wag-tail, and even goes so far as to jerk its caudal appendage; but as this is short its efforts to imitate its prototype are more ridiculous than graceful. It is truly *fluvicola* a river-dweller, but it is not *pica*, that is, a bird that pecks its food from the bark of a tree." It is never found far away from water, feeding as it does upon the flies and other insects that gather about that element. It builds its nest upon some low bush or stunted tree. if it should find one fairly inaccessible to its enemies; failing that, it will not hesitate to build its homestead high.

I once had a nest of young ones; little animated balls of cotton They were coming on nicely until one night (I was in the North-West District) they succumbed to the cold.

The Cotton-bird has neither high bird-intelligence, nor tuneful voice, nor yet splendid plumage to recommend it as a cage-bird. The only note I have heard it utter is a modest *tweet-tweet*; and this is not very often.

[Below we give English equivalents for the names used in this article, covering May and present instalments.—Ed.]

Great Rice Bird=Black Cassique.
Guiana Blackbird=Savannah Blackbird.
Reed Bird or Yellow-head=Yellow-headed Reed or Marsh Bird.
Savannah Ground Dove=Talpacoti Dove.
Speckled Dove=Passerine Dove.
Tiny Ground Dove=Dwarf Ground Dove.
Common Thrush=White-bellied Thrush.
Cotton Bird=Black and White Tyrant.

(*To be continued*).

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Editorial.

NESTING NOTES: Sad stories have come from many quarters as to spoiled prospects owing to one of a pair dying, and numerous are the records of failure with first clutches—this morning (June 7th) at 7-30, the thermometer stood at 46 deg. F. in a sheltered unheated greenhouse! However, more encouraging accounts are now coming. We will give precedence to one from the north and another from the south.

MR. BRIGHT'S AVIARIES: In these aviaries, we figure two pleasing snap-shots of No. 1 aviary, situated near Liverpool the birds are not put out till the weather appears settled, though some few, of proved robustness, remained out all the year round. In a letter dated June 5th, reviewing for the writer's benefit the commencement of the season he mentions the following interesting facts:

"I have young in nest of Virginian and Pope Cardinals, "Long-"tail Grassfinches, Zebra Finches, Geoffry's Doves and a number of "Budgerigars. The Lovebirds and Cockateels first clutches came to "nothing."

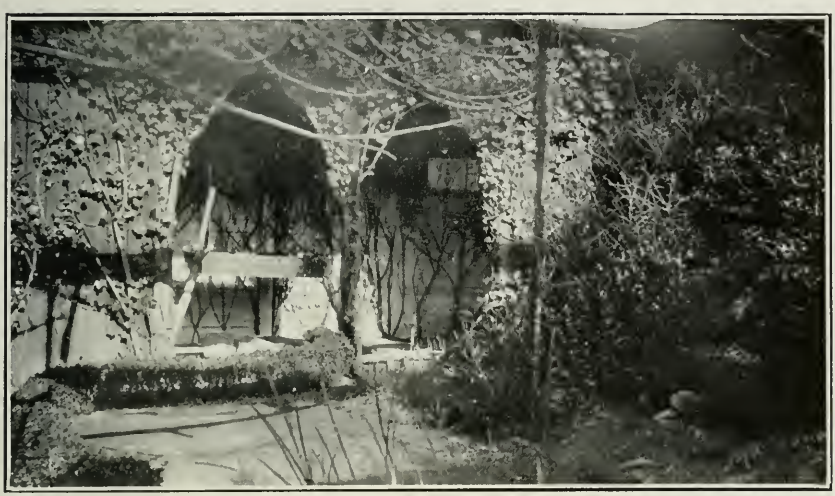
"The following have nests most are incubating clutches of eggs: "Malabar Starlings, Yellow-bellied Buntings, Firefinches, Orange-breasted "Waxbills, Parrot Finches, Pintail Parrot Finches, Himalayan Siskin, "Ind. Red-headed Bullfinches, Bearded Tits (2 pairs—one pair in a Hartz-"cage and the other pair high up under the eaves), Black-faced Quail "Finches (nest built on a bank, no eggs yet, I think), Aurora Finches "(a wonderful nest in some old tree roots and the difficulty is to see "which is the nest!); Cape, Diamond, Violet, and Brush Bronze-wing "Doves; and Chaffinches."

"A cross-mated Yellow Sparrow has mated with a Desert Trump-"peter Bullfinch and a nest is being built."

"Have seen the Malabar Starlings go twice into a barrel, in which "nesting material ends can be seen, with their beaks full of gentles, so "apparently they must be feeding young."

We can only hope that the above episodes may be carried to complete success.

DR. LOVELL-KEAYS' NOTES: From a series of notes



Photos. by H. E. Bright.

SNAPS IN Mr. Bright's

No. 1. Aviary.

Upper: Shows one Shelter Shed and Food Tray.

Lower: The opposite end.

May 15th to June 6th I glean the following:

The Young White-eyes (*Z. virens*), mentioned in our last issue, were fully reared, and became quite independent of their parents, only to succumb to the terrible wind and rain storms of June 4th. Another young brood of three are in the nest and thriving.

A pair of Chaffinches nested and duly hatched out, but the young were not fully reared; however another pair, in another aviary, have young which are doing well.

One or more pairs of Blue Tits are engaged in incubation.

Passing mention of a disheartening tragedy must be made. Success had been all but achieved in the rearing of a young Malabar Parrakeet, when the hen Malabar was killed by a Mealy Rosella Parrakeet. Not only is there the acute disappointment of the "all but" reared youngster, but there is the serious loss of an apparently unreplaceable bird. We sympathise with Dr. Lovell-Keays in his keen disappointment and loss.

As stated last month Dr. Lovell-Keays is kindly taking care of Mr. W. T. Page's birds while his aviaries are rebuilding. Some bird (or birds) among them has apparently changed its demeanour with new quarters, for the first broods of Pekin Robins and Black Tanagers were murdered in the nest—the culprit has yet to be discovered. However, the Pekins have now one young bird on the wing, and the Black Tanagers are again rearing young. One, or more, young Grey-wing Ouzel is independent of its parents.

We have mislaid one letter, so cannot give details fully, but several species of Parrakeets and Lovebirds are nesting.

Mr. G. E. Haggie has young of Peach-faced Lovebirds and Zebra Finches. It will interest many to learn that in his Finch aviary (moderate size) he has two cock and one hen Yellow-winged Sugarbirds and a cock Gold-fronted Green Fruitsucker among the Finches living together in amity.

Other notes unavoidably held over till next issue, including visits to two Farnham and district aviaries.

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A Roadside Tragedy.

By Dr. L. Lovell-Keays, F.Z.S.

On the morning of May 9th, I noticed on a door step the scanty but mortal remains of a young Thrush. I naturally put it down to *Felis domestica* but inquiry proved my assumption to be quite wide of the mark. It seems that a bird which the cottagers declared was a cuckoo was seen devouring the Thrush on a gate within 15 yards of the house, the parent bird meanwhile displaying the greatest possible distress and concern. The supposed cuckoo was driven off and my informants declare it flew into a neighbouring oak tree, and gave vent to its characteristic call. As soon as they went indoors the "cuckoo" returned to the feast and proceeded to eat nearly the whole of the young bird, the mother bird meanwhile standing by and uttering notes of most poignant grief. So much so that the onlookers drove the "cuckoo" off and rescued the mortal remains which were just enough to identify the bird. Now there is no shadow of doubt that some predatory bird actually attacked and devoured a young Thrush within fifty feet of an inhabited house, and that although driven off at once returned to the feast. I have three witnesses of that and also the skin of the bird. The only question is whether the marauder was really a cuckoo or possibly a sparrowhawk. In any case the bird showed great fearlessness, and unless the sparrowhawk was a tame one would hardly be likely to tolerate such nearness to human beings. Moreover, sparrowhawks are very uncommon about here. If a cuckoo, and personally I have very little doubt that it was, as country people are fairly accurate about such Natural

History as they do know, it shows what a bloodthirsty bold ruffian the cuckoo is and why he is "mobbed" wherever he goes. Talking about cuckoos reminds me that near a certain lane I often go down I see a cuckoo or pair of cuckoos year after year hunting a certain range of hedgerows. At no other part of my district do I have the same experience. My theory is that it is either the same pair of cuckoos or their progeny that return to the same locality year after year. To add to my point I may say that I habitually go into at least a dozen different parishes and yet at no other place can I be sure of seeing frequently a pair of cuckoos hunting a given set of hedgerows. I always see them and on returning home, remark to my wife "I have seen my cuckoos again this year at Ripe" (the name of the village). There is, I think, not the smallest doubt that birds of other species or their progeny do return to the same nesting place year after year, and such birds as swallows will endeavour to gain admission into an out-house, the door of which is constantly kept shut after having nested there the previous year, but make no attempt to enter another out-house in the same row. This year I intend to make a pigeon hole over the door and next year keep the door absolutely locked from April 1st. to April 21st. If they find their way through that pigeon hole I shall consider that very strong evidence that the birds have been there before. All of which is a dreadful digression and shows what evil consequences may arise through writing about a "Roadside Tragedy."

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Correspondence.

LIST OF BIRDS SEEN IN FLANDERS.

Sir,—We are up in the trenches again and the sunshine is remarkable We are getting known as lucky Cheshires in the Division, as we always seem to get good weather when our turn comes. It is really hot to-day.

It struck me that perhaps a list of birds I have noticed since landing

Rook.
Hooded Crow.
Jay
Magpie.
Starling.
Blackbird.
Song Thrush.
Robin.
Hedge Sparrow.
Wren.
Skylark.
Pied Wagtail.
Grey Wagtail.
Great Tit.
Blue Tit.
House Sparrow.
Tree Sparrow.
Greenfinch.
Chaffinch.
Yellow-hammer.
Swallow.
Tawny Owl.
Barn Owl.
Little Owl.
Kestrel
Sparrow-hawk.
Pheasant.
Common Partridge.
Red-legged Partridge.
Snipe.
Wood Pigeon.
Stock Dove.
Lapwing.
Heron.
Black-headed Gull.

The noteworthy features of the above list are: firstly, the Hooded Crows and Magpies which, I think. I told you before are very plentiful out here; secondly, the Little Owl, of which I have seen several, one mobbed by several Sparrows; thirdly the B.H. Gull, which was remarkable so far from the coast as we were, and lastly, the date of the first Swallow, which was April 18th. More than half these birds I have seen right up to the trenches, within one hundred yards of the firing line.

At one village we were billeted in I saw several fine specimens of ornamental Pheasants. On enquiry I found that a wealthy neighbour had experimented with Gold, Silver, and Amherst Pheasants, and liberated them in the surrounding woods. He cleared off at the outbreak of war and the villagers had captured many of these birds. One fine cock I saw was a hybrid Golden × Amherst.

(Lieut.) W. R. BATTY.

Somewhere in Flanders,
April 26th, '16

[The above reached us per C.S.M., R. Suggitt.—Ed.]

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A SUBSTITUTE FOR FRUIT.

Sir,—The price and difficulty of procuring fruit has been exercising my mind recently, and how to secure a substitute was a puzzle.

I now find that practically all my birds, seed eaters and fruit eaters alike, are fond of boiled greens made crumbly by the addition of biscuit meal.

Birds that looked discontented if they did not get their usual allowance of fruit are quite happy with this cabbage preparation.

Heddam Castle, 20/5/'16. E. J. BROOK.

◆

FIELD AND AVICULTURAL NOTES.

Sir,—The following rough notes may prove of interest—they refer to birds within a fifty yards radius of the house.

Redstarts. A pair have built in a nest-box fixed to a tree on the front lawn, about fifteen yards from the front door. I looked at the nest on May 21st, and found it contained seven eggs, five of which hatched out on the 26th. I took the two remaining eggs for my collection, which I have started since arrival here.

Pied Flycatchers.—One pair have built in a box I put up in an apple tree in the orchard, about twenty yards from the back of the house. Six eggs have been deposited therein—incubation commenced with the laying of the sixth egg on May 27th.

Another pair have built in a hole in the wall behind some pigsties, fifteen feet from the ground. This nest also contained six eggs, which were quite fresh so I should think incubation must have only just commenced when I saw the nest on May 28th.

Tits.—Several pairs of Great, and Blue Tits are nesting, mostly in nest boxes, which have been put up for their convenience.

In the hedge of one of my meadows a pair of Long-tailed Tits have nested and hatched out safely a few days ago. I found two more Long-tails' nests in a wood behind the house, both built in bramble bushes One contained eggs, the other almost fledged young.

Owls.—Pairs of Brown and Barn Owls, and Kestrels are nesting in the same wood.

Common Species. Greenfinches, Chaffinches, Thrushes, Blackbirds, and many other of the commoner birds' nests are very numerous about the garden

Woodpeckers: The Green Woodpeckers are very common and are often to be seen around the house, though I have not yet succeeded in finding any of their nests.

The Greater Spotted Woodpecker I have only seen on two occasions so far; one some months ago, and a pair last Monday in the wood behind the house; I fancy, therefore, they are rather scarce in these parts.

Magpies and Crows.—A pair of Magpies built in a fir tree near the pigsties and laid eight eggs, but the nest has since been raided by a pair of Carrion Crows, which after battles lasting over three days finally succeeded in driving off the pies and plundering the nest. I shall have to "strafe" these black Huns before long as they are always up to similar mischief, and have recently carried off three young Golden Pheasants.

The Aviary.—Nothing much doing yet, the difficulty being to mate up odd birds. However, *Black Tanagers*: have young nicely feathering. *Californian Quail* have laid seventeen eggs, but are not yet sitting. *Virginian Cardinals* (old pair, have had the hen since 1908 and when I bought her she appeared by no means in the first blush of youth) have nested twice, both times the hen laid two eggs, but on both occasions, somehow or other they got thrown out of the nest, probably through the interference of one of the numerous old birds in the aviary; she has now, I believe, gone to nest again. "Some" bird, I think!

Caersws, Montgomeryshire, 1/6/'16. GERALD E. RATTIGAN.

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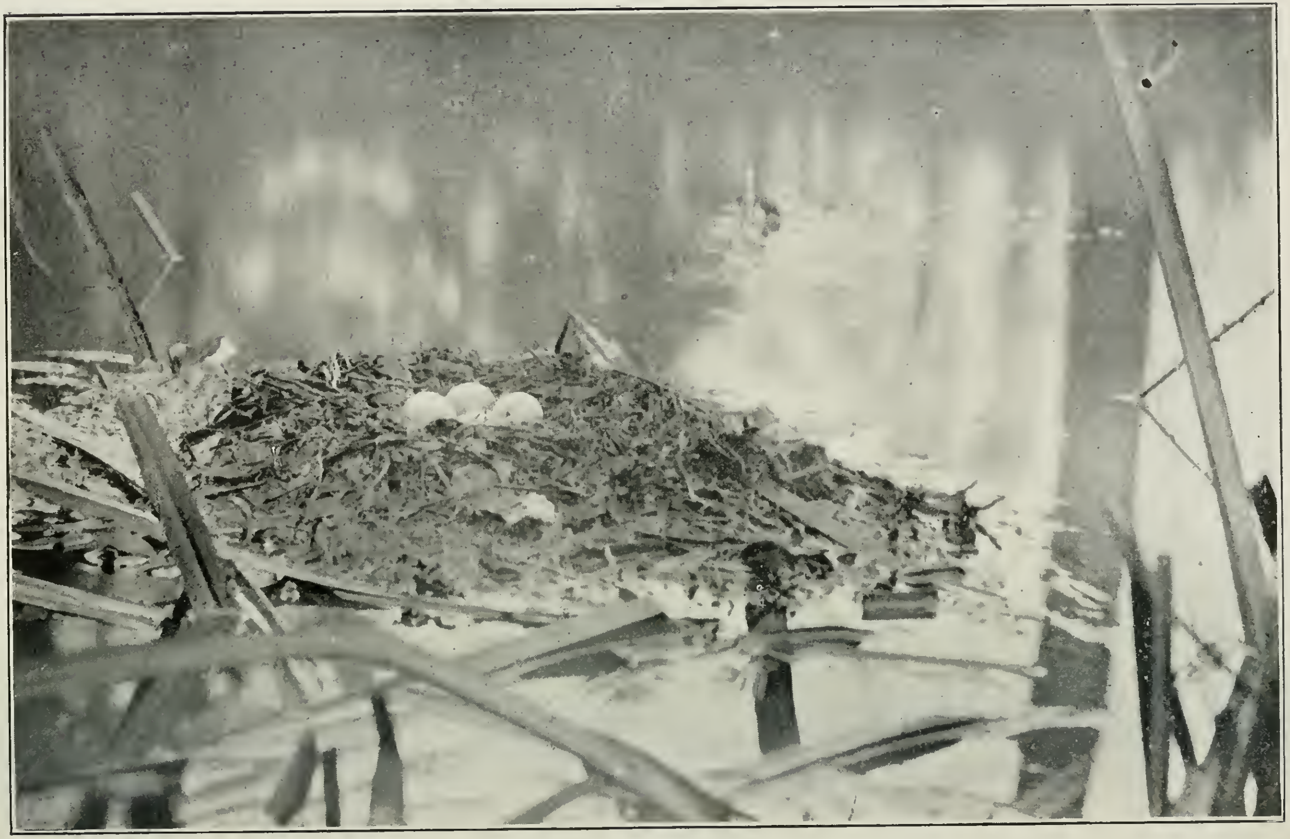

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Nest Eggs of Little Grebe.

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Grebes.

BY WM. SHORE BAILY.

One of the commonest and most interesting of our water-birds is the Little Grebe (*Podicipes fluviatilis*), or Dabchick as it is more often called. Very few ponds of any size are without one or more pairs of these little birds, although it is quite possible for the unobservant to pass along the banks daily without being aware of their presence; the teatering cry of the birds conveying no hint to their untrained ears.

Early in April they build up a little floating raft of a nest, attached to some growing waterweed, or overhanging bramble. In this the hen deposits four or five white eggs, which, as incubation proceeds, gradually turn to a dirty coffee colour. On anyone approaching the nest, she carefully covers the eggs with loose waterweeds, and silently disappears beneath the water. Even a trained observer might now pass the nest without noticing it. The hen sits for about three weeks, being fed on the nest by the male bird. The young leave the nest as soon as hatched, but return to it when tired, and also to sleep at night, Both parents now have a busy time, with four or five chicks to feed. For the first week or two aquatic insects are principally used, but as the little ones grow, young sticklebacks and other fry are given. With one nest of five young I kept under observation, I saw both parents feed each young one every minute, that is to say five visits to the nest by each bird, and this was kept up until the young ones were satisfied and went to sleep. It meant pretty rapid fishing. When the young are about a month or six weeks old, the hen leaves them in their father's care and promptly goes to nest again, generally succeeding in fully rearing a second brood.

The chief enemies the little ones have to fear are the big fish. Many disappear down the hungry maws of the common pike, which is found in most of our larger ponds or streams, and on my own pond the big trout have proved to be equally fond of a mouthful of dabchick.

In the autumn the young migrate, but whether they leave this country for Southern Europe, or simply congregate on our larger sheets of water, I am unable to say. Personally I have never seen more than seven or eight together. Before leaving they have to be taught to fly, and great teatering and splashing takes place whilst this is going on. It is some time before they are able to lift themselves quite clear of the water, but one morning early in October one finds that they have all cleared off except the old birds.

These birds do a good deal of damage on salmon and trout streams in the spawning season, probably more than the gorgeous Kingfisher, or even the lovely Heron. I remember seeing a little flock of seven, probably a family party, feeding on salmon spawning beds on the Itchen. Five of the birds were continually under the water, and this one party alone must have accounted for thousands of ova. In hard frost they are driven off the ponds to the more rapidly running rivers, or even to the coast. I have occasionally seen one fishing in the shallow waters in one of the more sheltered bays in the Isle of Man.

Of the other English Grebes that nest with us, the Great Crested Grebe (*Podicipes cristatus*) has not come under my notice, the inland waters in the west of England, not being of sufficient extent to provide it with a permanent home. I think that it is quite likely that the Bristol Water Co.'s fine reservoir at Blagdon, as soon as the reedbeds around the banks are thoroughly established, will prove to be another of its breeding haunts. One other British Grebe I have met with, and that is the Slavonian Grebe (*P. auritus*), a really pretty bird with its bright chestnut ear-patches, but this was in a remote district of California, a matter of 6,000 miles from this country. It was, I think, quite as

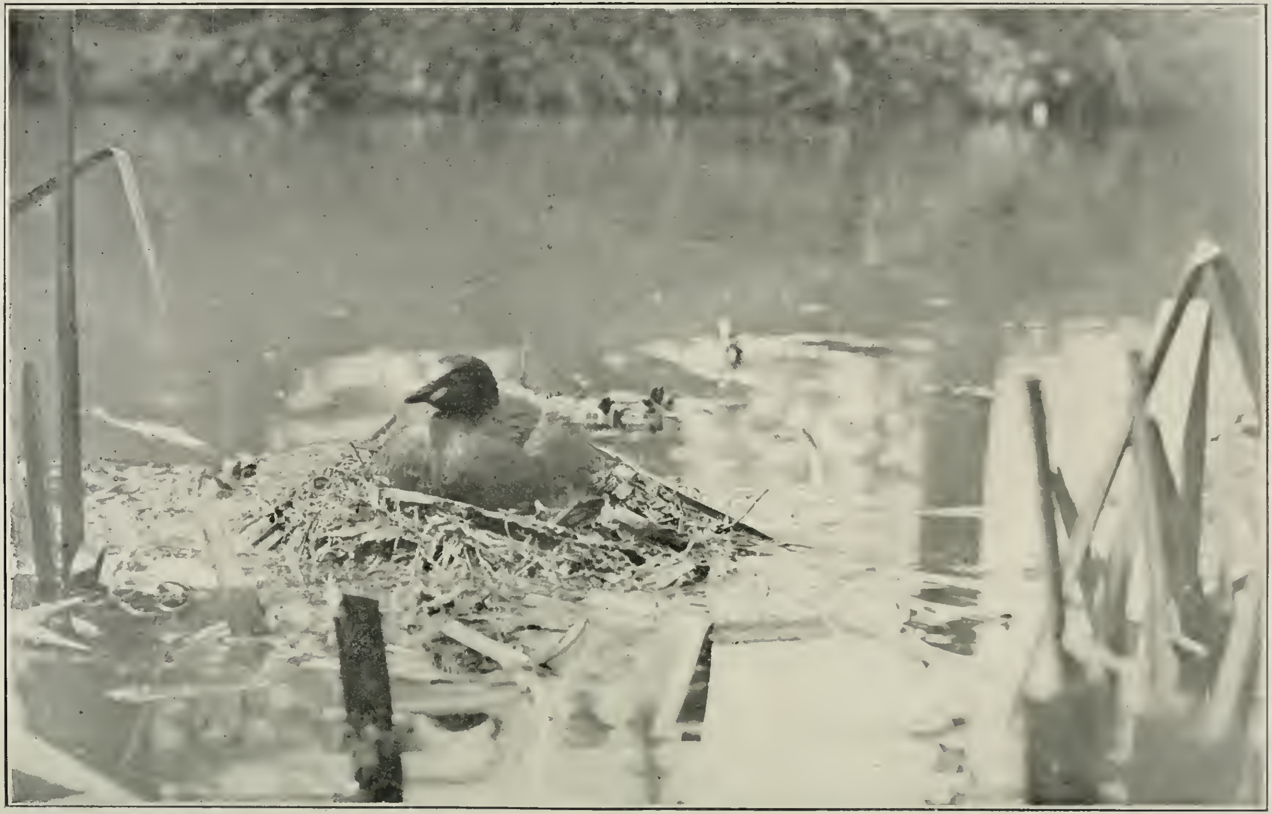

Photo by W. Shore Baily.

Little Grebe on Nest.

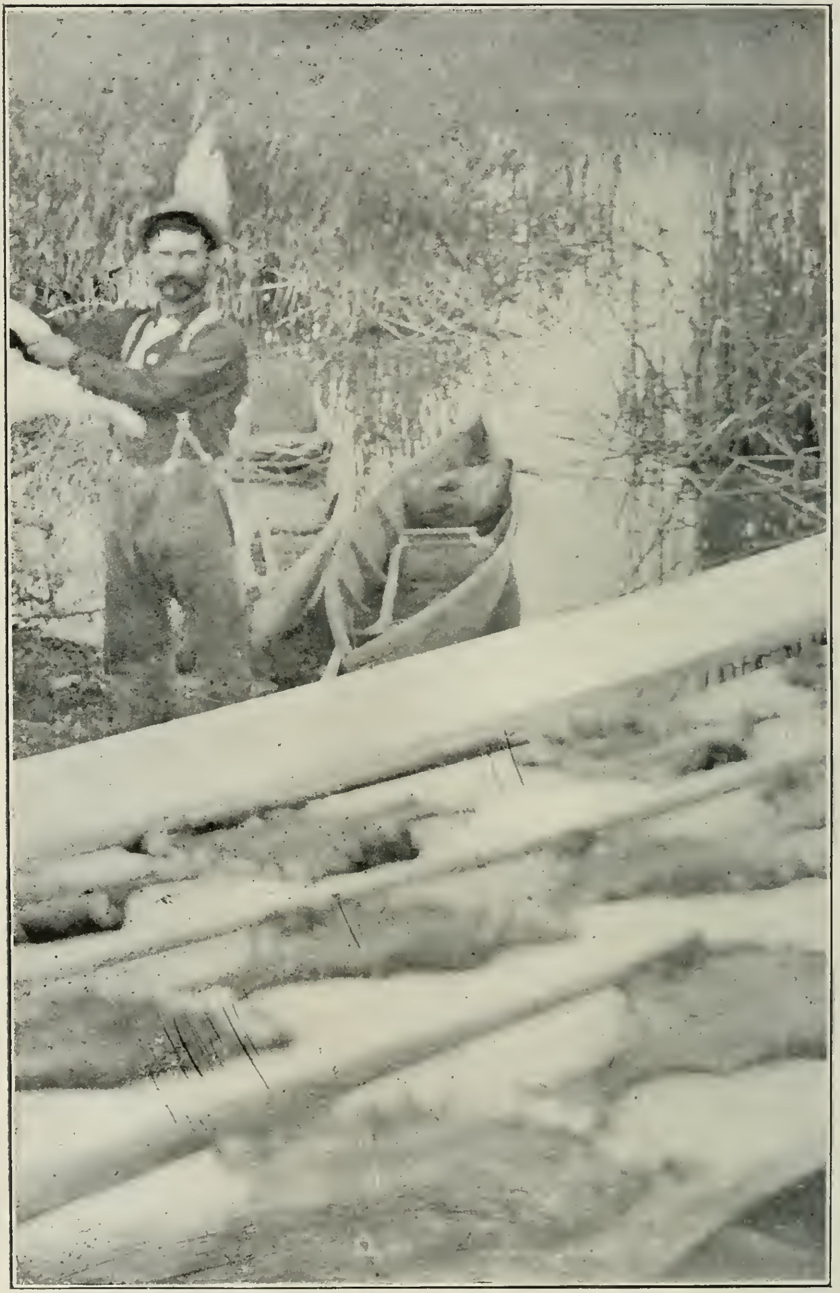

Photo by W. Shore Baily.

Grebe Skinning in 1905.
Buena Vista Lake.—S. California

uncommon there as it is here. I only saw the one specimen during a sojourn of five years. It is, I understand, quite common in the colder states in the north and east, as well as in Canada. The bird that takes the place of our Dabchick in North America is *P. podiceps*, commonly called the Hell Diver! Why, I don't quite know. One has always been led to believe that Hell was the one place in which water was at a premium, and where swimming and diving couldn't be indulged in. As divers, they easily take first place. They are the only birds that I have seen that can dive tail first. If suddenly surprised from the front, they just throw a back somersault and disappear. They can also sink at will and it is very amusing to watch them gradually submerging themselves when any object they may be inspecting seems to them as if it might be dangerous. I have often had one examine me from a distance of a few feet, for a minute or more at a time, its head and neck only being above the water, the length of the neck visible, varying as the bird's confidence in my harmlessness increased or declined. Their nest is a floating mass of weeds, similar to that of our Dabchick, and several nests are found together. The grebe, with which I can fairly claim to have the closest acquaintance, is the largest of its kind, the grebe of commerce (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*). This bird, when fashion demands, is slaughtered in thousands, just as are the seal and other fur-bearing animals. Truly our lady friends have much to answer for. Luckily, from the birds' point of view, the demand for grebe-fur is a very intermittent one, and for long periods there is no sale for it in any of the markets, consequently, the birds are then absolutely unmolested, and their numbers soon again become normal. My acquaintance with this bird was made on Lake Buena Vista, Southern California. Early in the spring very many of these birds visited the Lake, but whether to breed or simply as a resting place on their way to more northern latitudes, I am unable to say. I am inclined to think the latter, as, although I spent the season there well into May, I never came across one of their nests. They are rather timid birds, but like the Pronghorn Antelope, curiosity is an obsession with them, and when their skins are in demand this leads to their undoing. The hunter has simply to conceal himself and his boat in a clump of tules, throw out a wooden decoy duck and grebe after grebe will come up to inspect it. They are shot through the head, death of course being instantaneous, and the skin undamaged. In preparing the pelts for market the wings and legs are chopped off, an incision is made in the back from the head to the tail, when the skin is easily removed. This is then tacked on boards, sprinkled with a little plaster of Paris, to absorb the grease and allowed to dry. They fetch from 2s. to 3s. each on the San Francisco market, and at the beginning of the season while the birds are numerous, one man will kill and cure about eighty skins a day netting from £8 to £10 a day. I estimate that in three weeks from 12,000 to 14,000 birds were killed on this lake alone.

I remember securing one specimen that was covered entirely with thick down, having, as far as I can recollect, no feathers on any part of its body. It made a lovely pelt. Another that I killed had the fangs of a large rattlesnake embedded in the fat beneath its skin. This was in 1906. Of late years I have not noticed any grebe in the furriers' shops so that I hope the birds have now had a long rest.

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Bird Catching in India.

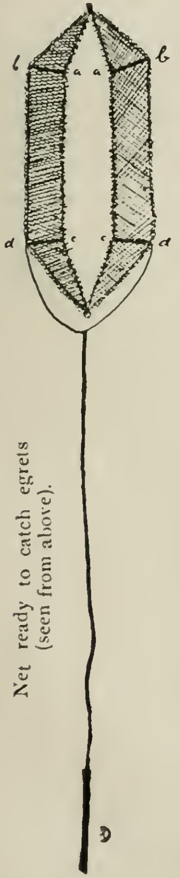
By Douglas Dewar, F.Z.S., I.C.S.

(*Continued from page* 141).

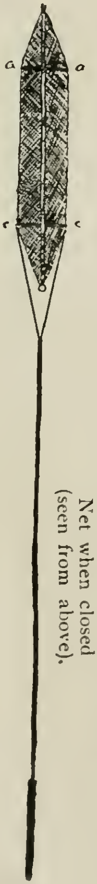
We have already noticed one method of securing Peafowl. Another is by means of fish-hooks baited with fruit and attached to a long string. Numbers of these baited hooks are thrown about where Peafowl come to feed. The fruit is eagerly gobbled up, and the hook sticks in the gizzard of the peafowl, and then to secure the luckless bird is easy work.

In the United Provinces large numbers of cattle egrets are caught shortly before the breeding season and denuded of their nuptial plumes which constitute the "buff ospreys" of commerce.

Notwithstanding the Government of India notification prohibiting the export of plumage a large traffic goes on in egrets' plumes, which are smuggled out of the country. Every year early in May parties of Muhammadans go round the United Provinces for the purpose of securing these plumes. Each party is composed of from seven to eleven men with three nets to seven men, four to nine men, or five to eleven men. Their operations last till the setting in of the monsoon, that is to say, for about four weeks. The apparatus they use consists of two nets made of fine string. These nets are about twenty-five feet long and nine wide, but they taper off to a point at each end.



Net ready to catch egrets (seen from above).



Net when closed (seen from above).

The nets are laid flat on the ground in shallow water, side by side with a space of about 2 feet between, except at the ends where the nets meet..

A rope runs along the outer edge of each net, ending in a loop at each end of the net. The loops are put round pegs driven firmly into the ground. The inner side of each net is pegged to the ground. Across each net, at the places where it begins to narrow, are fastened sticks (A B and C D). Each stick is attached at one end (A) (C) to a peg, so that when it is lifted up this end acts like a hinge. Round the far end of each stick (B) (D) the rope threaded through the outer edge of the net is wound.

To the end (D) of each of the sticks (C D) a rope about 8 feet long is fastened. To the middle of this a longer rope is joined, to the far end of this a long piece of cane is attached.

When the nets are set, a sharp pull at the cane causes the free ends (C D) of the four sticks

(AB CD) to be jerked upwards, so that they meet in the air, carrying with them the nets; these then stand up as a closed cage, looking like a tent.

The above description is, I fear, not very lucid. A rough idea of how the apparatus works can be obtained by taking a couple of playing cards and placing them side by side flat on the table, about an inch apart, and raising each card by the edge away from the other card, until the two edges meet in the air and thus form the first stage in the making of a card house. The cards when placed flat on the table resemble roughly the net when set, and when leaning against one another give the position of the net after the cane has been pulled.

The egret catchers repair to a village in the trees of which cattle egrets roost and rest in the middle of the day. Such trees are always near a *jhil* or tank. In the shallowest part of this one or more sets of nets are set, and at the place where the wild birds must alight, in order to be caught, two or more decoy egrets are tethered to pegs placed under water. These have their eyes sewn up to prevent them from struggling. In order to give an additional touch of colour these bird-catchers often have with them a Black-legged Stork, which they allow to wander about the tank after having blind-folded it. Having set the nets and placed the lure birds in position, the bird-catchers hide near by, one of them holding the end of the cane ready to tug at it as soon as a wild egret walks into the trap. The egrets in the tree seeing some of their own kind standing placidly in the water and the stork wandering about think that the men who have been working on the *jhil* have gone away. Sooner or later one of the wild egrets alights near the decoy birds; the cane is at once jerked and, before the wild egret realises what has happened, it finds itself caught within the net. One of the bird-catchers at once runs up, secures the captive egret, opens out its wings, holds the bird's left wing between the big toe and the second toe of his right foot and the right wing in his left foot and pulls out the dorsal plumes if these are well-developed. Having performed this operation, which takes only a few seconds, he releases the deplumed egret, which rejoins its fellows in the tree, far more astonished than hurt. The net is again set. In this way a pair of men can catch from 20 to 40 egrets in a day. Ducks and other waterfowl are often captured by this device.

Rosy Starlings are also caught in this way. In their case the nets are set under a mulberry tree, in a place that has been slightly hollowed out. The nets and poles are hidden by loose earth over which is scattered fruit which attracts the Rosy Starlings. When a goodly number of these are collected, the nets are closed on the unsuspecting starlings.

The usual method of catching small birds is by means of a thin bird-limed cane, which the bird-catcher can lengthen by adding pieces to the stick in the same way as the pieces of a fishing rod are joined together. Having limed well the end of the stick, which is very slender, the bird-catcher seeks out the particular kind of bird he wishes to procure, and pushes up his stick gently until he succeeds in touching his victim with it. So sticky is the lime that the bird adheres to the stick and despite frantic struggles and loud cries is drawn down and secured by the bird-catcher.

In order to attract small birds the bird-catcher stands under a leafy tree and makes a curious noise, something like the sound made by Indians to quiet a restive horse. The small birds in the vicinity, fired by curiosity, come to see what the noise is about and are promptly limed and put into the bird-catcher's loin-cloth, where they remain till he gets home and cages them.

In the case of some small birds—White-eyes, for example, it is only necessary for the bird-catcher to flourish his stick on which one bird has been caught to attract its fellows. These flutter round the victim, making a great uproar, and the bird-catcher waves his stick among them, and thus secures several more of them. Only small birds can be easily caught by means of the limed stick. The larger birds are often able to shake themselves free. For insectivorous birds an apparatus known as a *Kamani* is largely used. This consists of two or three thin twigs bent to semi-circles and joined together at the middle. When this apparatus stands up it has somewhat the appearance of crossed croquet hoops. This is thoroughly limed all over, and under it is tethered the insect known as the mole-cricket. The latter is speedily seen by some insect-eating bird, such as a roller, which, when it flies to it has its wings caught in the lime on the *Kamani.*

Mr. H. S. Raines, states that in the Sunderbunds young Paroquets are caught by placing limed bamboos among the reeds along the water's edge on which these birds roost. According to this observer the patches of jungle where young Parroquets are in the habit of spending the night in large flocks are leased for Rs. 20 or more for the season!

The more usual method of securing Parrots for the market is to take the young birds out of the nests just before they are ready to fly.

Several devices exist for catching Amadavats, which are the birds most commonly caged in India. In all of them advantage is taken of the fact that Amadavats are gregarious birds and are attracted by the call of their fellows.

In the Punjab the amadavat-catcher supplies himself with one of the ordinary pyramidal wicker cages to the base of one side of which is attached by a hinge a flap, which is of the same shape and size as the side of the cage. The flap consists of a fine net stretched over a wicker frame. To the apex of the flap is fastened a long string, which passes through a loop at the top of the cage. When the cage is placed on the ground with the string loose, the flap lies flat on the ground. A smart pull at the string jerks the flap close up against the side of the cage. Having put two or three amadavats in the cage the bird-catcher sallies forth into the grass land frequented by amadavats and, having set down the cage and sprinkled some seed on the flap, squats behind a bush, holding the end of the string in his hand. Sooner or later an amadavat, attracted by the calls of the captive birds, comes to the spot and alights on the flap to obtain the seed. The string is pulled, and the amadavat is caught between the wall of the cage and the flap. It is then taken out of this and put into the cage along with the other captive birds. The trap is then set again.

In conclusion, I may mention that in some parts of the Punjab the common babblers or seven sisters are considered to be table delicacies by the natives. The following device is used to catch these noisy birds:

A dome-shaped structure, about the size of an open umbrella, made of twigs is placed on the ground and a number of horse-hair nooses attached to it. Into this a sparrow is put. His cries of distress usually attract a butcher-bird, which gets caught in one of the nooses. Then he and the sparrow are tied together under the basket, to the great disgust of both, which causes them to make a great uproar. The noise never fails to attract any company of seven sisters that happen to be in the neighbourhood, for they are most inquisitive creatures. They hop on to the basket, chattering loudly and become entangled in the nooses.

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Visits to Members' Aviaries.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

Mr. Fisher's Aviaries and Birds: In the first week of April I once more had the privilege of a talk with this member and seeing his collection. The aviaries have been several times referred to in our pages, so that concerning them I need only remark that certain renovations and improvements have been carried out, which enhance the comfort of their occupants. These, perhaps, were not quite so numerous as usual, but all were looking very fit and some bent on nesting operations. I noted among others the following:

Pheasants.—Golden, Silver, Swinhoe's, Ring-necked, White, and Lady Amherst's, also handsome crosses between the Golden and Lady Amherst's.

Parrakeets.—This enclosure was given up to Budgerigars, which were breeding freely, Madagascar Lovebirds, Cockateels, Moustache, and Ring-necks.

Finches.—In this aviary were certain Waxbills and Weavers, British Finches, Buntings, Foreign Finches, and Cardinals.

The aviaries were cleanly and well kept, and with their occupants made quite a pleasing and interesting display.

Mr. C. E. Croker's Aviaries: From the preceding aviaries I went on to Mr. Croker's and spent a pleasant day and night with him and his feathered and furry friends. Mr. Croker's aviaries, too, have been described more than once; the main improvement, which has been carried out since my last visit, has been the addition of a domed roof to the flight of the Finch Aviary, adding materially to the space for exercise. Here, too, though there were a goodly number of birds, losses have not been replaced. The birds have gone through the winter well and more than one brood of Cutthroats and Zebra Finches have left the nest and been successfully reared during its course.

In the various aviaries I noted the following species (not a full list):

British Species.—Gold,- Chaff-, Green-, Bramble-, and Bullfinches; Corn, Reed, and Cirl Buntings; Hedge Accentors; Blue and Cole Tits; Linnets; Redpolls; Jays; Magpies; Raven; Yellow Wagtail.

Foreign Finches and Weavers, etc.,—Ribbon, Zebra, and Saffron Finches; Paradise and Pintail Whydahs; Russ', Red-billed Madagascar, and Orange Weavers; Gold-breasted, and Grey Wagtails; Cordon Bleus; Black-headed Mannikins; Combasous; Pekin Robins; Pope Cardinals, etc.

Pheasants.—These comprised Golden, Lady Amherst's, and hybrids between these two species, also Silvers.

Doves.—These consisted of quite a flock of Barbary and Turtle Doves, and a number of fertile hybrids between the two species; many of these hybrids being very handsome.

Parrakeets:—Numerous Budgerigars, and Madagascar Lovebirds; Quaker, Rosella, Moustache and Ring-neck Parrakeets. The Quaker Parrakeets, whose nest we figured in last Vol. of "Bird Notes," successfully rear several young birds annually.

In cages I noticed a fine and talented Roseate Cockatoo, and a beautiful and rare Horsefield's Whistling Thrush (probably the only one in England at the present time).

In the Finch aviary were quite a number of Crest and Crest-bred Canaries, which stay out of doors all the year round, all but fully fledged young were in the nest at the time of my visit.

MR. C. F. LEACH'S AVIARIES: My visit was but a short one, a walk round without a note book, so I must jot down a few descriptive notes from memory. The aviaries are picturesquely placed in the midst of a beautiful and spacious garden, of which they form an attractive feature. The aviaries are roomy and with one or two exceptions are not of the garden or natural type. With the exception of the latter they are mostly given up to Cranes, Pheasants, and British birds. The aviaries have concrete floors, and mostly consist of three compartments—shelter, covered flight and open flight—in the shelters and covered flights heat (hot-water) to almost any extent is at command and these compartments can be shut off from the open flight at will, so that there is ample protection and accommodation for almost any tropical feathered denizen that may be acquired. The aviaries are constructed of wood and glass on a brick base, and the flights of half-inch mesh netting stretched on iron framing; and their design plain and handsome.

I cannot attempt any description of the birds I saw, as I was engaged in talk with their owner while walking round, but among others, I remember seeing, perfect specimens of:

Toucans (several species), Macaws, Diademed and several other species of Jays, White-winged Starlings, Red-crested and Pope Cardinals, a flock of various *Ploceidae*, White-throated Jay-Thrush, White-crested Jay-Thrush, etc., etc.

Passing on we came to the wilderness type of aviaries, one or two of which contained spacious shallow ponds, constructed of cement; these formed a very picturesque feature of the garden. In two of them stalked the stately Stanley, and Crowned Cranes; in others were several species of Pheasants, including a pair of rare Crossoptilons, I think the Manchurian.

I may pause here to mention that the day before my visit six young Crossoptilons had been hatched out, and at time of writing (June 29) are doing well, with every prospect of being fully reared; if this, to be desired, result is achieved, I believe I am correct in stating that they will be the first of their kind to be reared in captivity.

In another roomy aviary were a flock of Fancy Ducks.

In another aviary were gathered together a flock of British Finches and Buntings, and very happy and contented they looked in the midst of plenty, shelter, safety, and natural quarters.

Another picturesquely constructed aviary was given up to a flock of Budgerigars.

My memory fails to recall all that interested me so intensely. and I sincerely hope Mr. Leach will have photos taken and accompany them with a descriptive article from his own pen.

DR. LOVELL-KEAYS' AVIARIES: These, too, have been described and figured in "B.N." more than once, and I will only add that on the occasion of my last visit (June 25th) I thought that my friend had made a mistake in not using the pruning knife more freely in the early spring—so dense has the growth become in several of the aviaries, that they are like small woods; splendid cover for the birds, but too thick for much observation of the doings of the occupants.

Photo by Dr. Lovell Keays.
Nest of Pekin Robin. External view.

With such aviaries it is no cause for surprise that almost everything has attempted to reproduce its kind; yet even these, almost ideal, conditions have not been sufficient to triumph over the adverse weather conditions of May and June; the result being, as in many other aviaries, that much labour and careful thought, have resulted in little more than all-but-successes.

True there were a number of young of many species again being fed in the nest, as well as clutches of eggs in the process of incubation, and the writer hopes that with better weather conditions better luck may attend the latter portion of the season.

Photo. by Dr. Lovell Keays.

Nest of Pekin Robin and Eggs.

I glimpsed young of Zebra Finches, Rosella, Parrakeets, Ring-necked Parrakeets (still in nest barrel), Pekin Robins, and Grey-winged Ouzels.

To give a list of Dr. Lovell-Keays' birds would be merely to repeat previous pages. They were all in perfect condition, as sleek and fit as birds could wish to be. I will mention a few *en passant* which particularly interested me, as follows:

Rufous-bellied Niltava (♂ only), Purple Sugarbirds, Malabar Parrakeets, Euops' Conure, Lavender Finches, and many other *Ploceidae*.

I was particularly interested in the many British species he has gathered together for this season, viz.:

Blue Tits (feeding young), Chaffinches (with young), Yellow Buntings (incubating), Bramblefinches, Nuthatches, Tree Creepers, Garden Warblers, Blackcaps, Nightingales.

I think there were others, but here again I took no notes, merely wandered round discoursing aviculture and enjoying a look at my own birds again, as well as the still larger collection belonging to my host and colleague.

Other visits must be left to other issues, as I have already occupied too much space in this issue.

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Some Colony Birds.

BY REV. CHAS. R. DAWSON, S.J. M.A. (OXON):

(*Continued from page* 157).

Reprinted from "TIMEHRI" (The Journal of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana), May, 1915; with compliments and thanks to the Author and Editors.—ED. "B.N."

THE RUSTIC TYRANT-BIRD. Another bird that is no tyrant, though it bears the name is *Eleinea pagana*, vulgarly called the Muff Bird, which in creole language means "a bird with a crest." How the word *muff* in this colony has come to mean a crest passes my comprehension.

The name *Eleinea*, that is (Greek) "belonging to the olive tree," is given to the bird, I suppose, on account of its sober colour of drab. If by some magic art an olive-tree could be changed into a bird, this might well be that dénouement. Its tail would represent the trunk of that tree; the olive-grey feathers, the leaves; the yellow markings, the young shoots, and so on. But I must describe the bird itself.

Six inches in extreme length, of which the tail is nearly two, the bird is a dull, homely, olive-grey above and light olive fading into yellowish grey, below. There are two bars of yellow-olive upon the wings, the two lines of upper wing coverts being tipped with this colour; the outer edges of the primaries are also of the same colour; the vent feathers are yellowish-green; the under-wing coverts are also light yellow. The bird has a conical crest which is generally kept erect. Its note is like a low-toned policeman's whistle, *whre——ah*. The mated pairs have a habit, common to kiskadees and some other tyrant birds, of taking a short flight together and then alighting, of saluting each other with shaking wings; and whereas the kiskadee utters his own name several times, little *pagana* seems to say, "*Wre—wre—wre, look at me, look at me!*"

Its name *pagana* must refer to its rustic appearance for the bird is common in towns, and in Georgetown its little pea-whistle, as I may call it, is heard at intervals throughout the day. True to its name, however, it remains unsophisticated.

It has the habits of a fly-catcher, though one I once possessed subsisted on a diet of bread and milk, fruit, etc. But this was due I think to the excessive friendliness of a black-faced tanager which, as soon as I put the stranger into the cage, flew to it and showed it signs of undisguised affection, caressing it and twittering to it. And thus it seemed to speak: "Friend, take it not too much to heart that you are captive. Captivity is not so base a thing as it may seem. Here we have wholesome food in plenty, with neither hawks, nor cats, nor boys with stones our souls to vex. How nice it turns about! And in this mirror's smooth and glassy surface we see reflected our most noble selves. . . . ." And so the rustic tyrant-bird took heart of grace and lived contented.

PARROTS. But I must no longer delay writing about parrots, the most intelligent and, in many respects, the most interesting of all the feathered tribes. Of the five hundred species of this great family found in tropical countries throughout the world twenty-five or more belong to this colony and include macaws, parrots (so-called), paroquets and love-birds. I may say in passing that it is a fault of our language that we have to call, not only parrots, parrots; but the whole tribe of *Psittacidae*: macaws, cockatoos, lories, paroquets, love-birds and the rest. The same defect is found in other departments of Zoology; thus we call apes, baboons, gibbons, and the rest, monkeys, as well as monkeys proper.

The word "parrot" is derived from the French "pierrot": the French call the bird "Little Peter," just as we call it "Pretty Poll." Parrots have more brain, proportionately, than any other bird, their upper beak or maxilla, unlike that of any other bird except the flamingo, is movable and not *anchylosed* to the skull. The tongue is thick and generally black, the eye intelligent and the pupil often highly dilatable. The feet, in common with cuckoos, toucans, woodpeckers, and a few others, are *zygodactyl* (Greek "yoked fingers") having two claws before and two behind; the outer claw is forced back into what is evidently a primarily unnatural position. I might remark that the word *zygodactyl* would be more applicable to the chameleon, the claws of which are not only disposed in this way, but those before and those behind are actually joined together. We have here an evident sign of evolution; it was necessary for climbing birds to have as firm a grip behind as before and so nature accommodated itself to their need.

Evolution as an active force in organic beings is too evident to every student of nature to be gainsaid; but that it has effected all that Darwinians would have us believe, is precisely what thinking men are beginning more and more strongly to deny. Many facts that seem at the outset to lead to evolution are like blind alleys; they go a certain way in the right direction and then suddenly terminate in a blank wall. Ruskin, approaching the subject in a rhetorical rather than a scientific mood, writes: "Had Darwinism been true, we should have split our heads in two with foolish thinking, or thrust out from above our covetous hearts a hundred desirous arms and clutching hands and changed ourselves into Briarean cephalopods. . . ." He is in a more scientific temper when, writing of the supposed evolution of the peacock's tail, he says, "I went to it myself, hoping to learn some of the existing laws of life which regulate the local disposition of colour. But none of these appear to be known; and I am informed only that peacocks have grown out of brown pheasants because the young feminine brown pheasants like fine feathers. Whereupon I say to myself "then either there was a distinct species of brown pheasants originally born with a taste for fine feathers; and therefore with remarkable eyes in their heads,—which would be a much more wonderful distinction of species than being born with remarkable eyes in their tails,—or else all pheasants would have been peacocks by this time!"

Much as scientists condemn the *a priori* reasoning of scholastic theologians, they instinctively fall into it themselves. For example, they would say that the parrot has obtained its movable maxilla by the continuous use of it as a climbing instrument, because, *a priori* this would be in accordance with their theory of evolution. But it is equally reasonable to argue, on the contrary, that the parrot having been endowed by nature with this most useful adjunct to its claws, immediately proceeded to give it its appropriate employment.

Parrots are the only birds that have conceived the bright idea of using their foot as a hand. Hawks, indeed, hold their victims with their feet while they tear them to pieces; yellow backs and birds of that class will hold a morsel of food beneath a foot that they may eat piecemeal; and even grass birds will so hold an ear of grass while they peck out the seeds; but only parrots use a foot to convey food to the mouth. When I was in India I had a paroquet that, planting itself firmly on its left foot, would, after the manner of an East Indian, gesticulate with its right, while it poured forth a torrent of imaginary eloquence!

But to return to our immediate subject.

As I am following no definitely scientific order in these papers, I may begin with the Love-bird.

THE LOVE BIRD. Only one species of this charming family is to be found in the Colony; but it is common in certain localities and has been seen about Georgetown. This, *Psittacula guianensis*, is of a uniform pea-green colour, lighter below. It is hardly five inches in length, the tail extending but little beyond the wings. The under-wing coverts of the male are of a beautiful ultramarine blue; the bastard wing light blue. The ends of the primaries are brown and the tail feathers are pointed like the blade of a spear. The hen is paler, and yellow on the forehead. It well earns its name for it is disconsolate when alone, and, when paired, neither seems content except when "sitting adjacent." And they are forever billing, warbling, and feeding each other. Like all true lovers they have their quarrels and reconciliations, and it is interesting to watch them. Now, the little lord will bury his beak in the feathers of the neck of his spouse and whisper protestations of his love into her willing ear; then something too trifling for human eye to note will happen and their shrill voices raised. But it is soon over. The little lord gains the supremacy and they both go down to the seed-box to soothe their ruffled spirits.

I have three of these birds, the odd one being a hen and very *de trop*. The other two combine to drive her off as if she were a step-mother. Occasionally they relent a little and then the little lord has an affectionate mate on either side vying with each other in their fond caresses. He bears himself nobly.

Under favourable circumstances these charming birds will breed in captivity as freely as canaries.

(*To be continued*).

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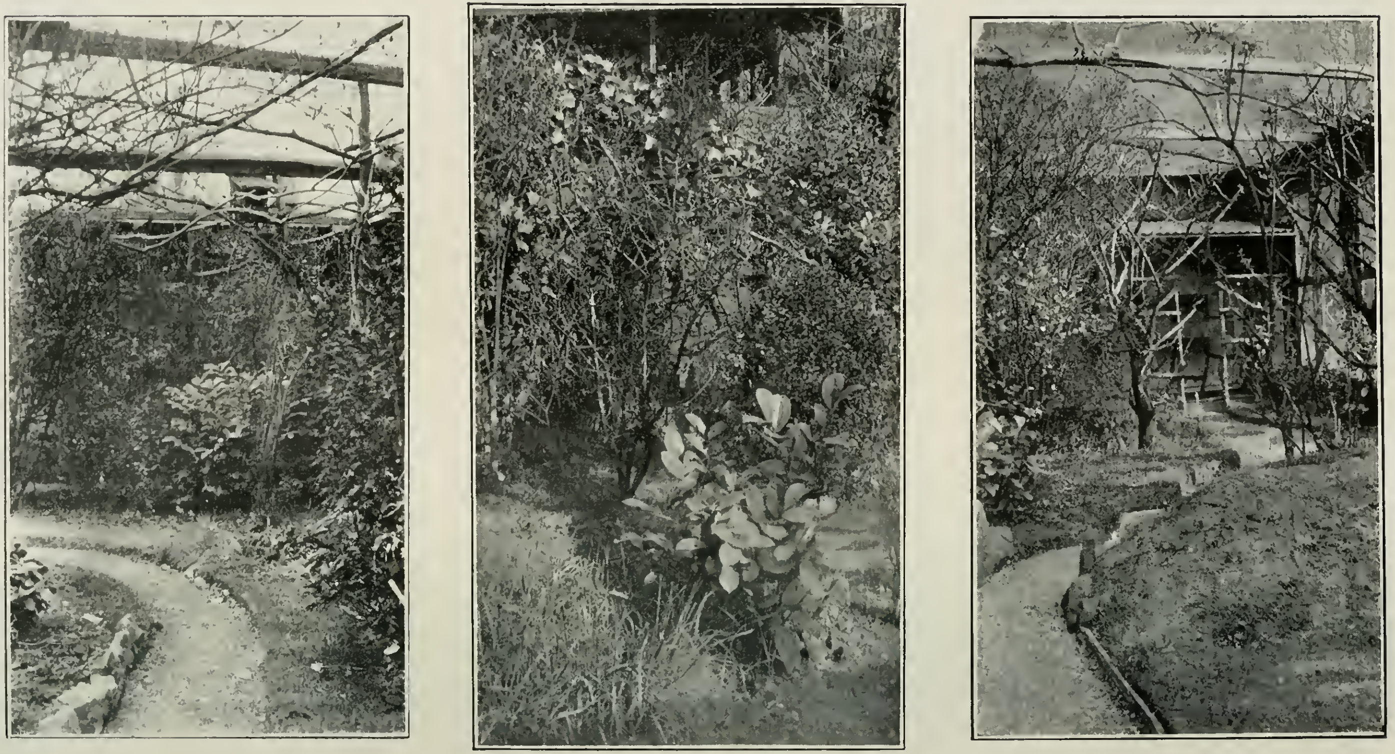
Early Notes of the Season.

By E. H. Bright.

The promise of the very early days of the season has not been upheld, the warm spell being succeeded by very wintry and wet weather, and up till quite recently frosts in the early morning were quite common. In consequence many promising broods came to nought, and only in a few cases have young been fully reared.

Pope Cardinals (*Paroaria larvata*): In the early days



Photos. *H. E. Bright.*

Snaps in Mr. Bright's Aviary No. 2.

of June a brood was successfully hatched out and all went well, the parents proved excellent feeders and the young (two) progressed rapidly, only to succumb one bitter, windy night when fully fledged and all but ready to leave the nest. The nest was a very flimsy one and little or no protection against the bitter weather prevailing in this district (Liverpool). However, they are not giving up in despair, for another nest has been built, but in a more exposed position than the last, so that, unless we get a little summer weather soon, the outlook is none too hopeful.

HIMALAYAN SISKIN × GREENFINCH (*Chrysomitris spinoides* × *Ligurinus chloris*). This is a happier story than the preceding, for four strong young hybrids are now disporting about the aviary. An interesting fact about the rearing of these hybrids is, that a pair of Virginian Cardinals who lost their own young one bitter night, at once took charge of the young hybrids. They take the greatest care of them and will hardly allow their own parents to approach them. The hen Virginian at once took them over when her own young died and I could hardly drive her off the nest to let the Siskin and Greenfinch feed their offspring. They used to sit waiting for me to drive the Virginians away, and then *rushed* to feed their young ones. A pair of Chaffinches have young just underneath, and they and the Siskin are continually attacking the Cardinals, and I have seen the Chaffinch holding on to the Cardinal's tail while flying. They do not seem to have taken any harm, as the small birds are so quick, but it is curious and interesting that the Cardinals should have taken over the young hybrids instead of going to nest again.

VIRGINIAN CARDINALS (*Cardinalis cardinalis*). These hatched out a little later than the Popes, and with exactly the same result, so I need not recapitulate the tale of woe. It was most disappointing on looking into the nest to see the two young, nicely feathered but dead. So far they have not gone to nest again, but instead have become sort of foster-parents to four young hybrids as stated above. I should say that though in the same aviary the two species of Cardinals did not interfere with each other in the least.

BEARDED REEDLINGS (*Panurus biarmicus*): This is the first season that this species has nested with me, and two pairs built, laid and commenced to incubate in the early days of June—one pair in a Hartz cage, in the shelter, and the other pair high up under the eaves of the aviary. On June 25th I had a look at the nest in the Hartz-cage and could find no trace of either eggs or young, though previously I had seen the eggs (exactly the same result has followed the nesting operations of a pair of Cuban Finches in the same aviary): I do not know what is in the other nest as it is very difficult of access, but as this pair are still very anxious for live food there may be young there, at least I hope so. This nest is high up under the eaves at the back of a tall privet bush, and I can't get to it. The first pair of Reedlings have built again; outside this time and quite low down, so I shall be able to watch their operations.

YELLOW-THROATED SPARROW × DESERT TRUMPETER BULLFINCH (*Gymnorhis flavicollis* × *Erythrospiza githaginea*): This odd-assorted pair duly mated up and spent some time in nest construction and later a clutch of four eggs was laid, I think now there must be young in the nest, as this evening (June 27), I saw the Sparrow take a gentle to the nest and leave it there, but could not see what took place. If reared it will be of some interest to see what sort of young such a cross produces.

MALABAR STARLINGS (*Poliopsar malabaricus*): These charming and handsome birds went to nest in a barrel, high up, and duly hatched out young, cannot say how many, some are still living. The old birds clear all comers away from the piece of open grass near their nest, and have sparring matches with the Cardinals; if he or she is getting worsted, whichever it is calls out, and the other at once comes and lends a hand to drive off the enemy, and then gabble away to each other their congratulations. I am expectantly awaiting the emergence of the young, which apparently are always hungry.

Young Long-tailed Grassfinches and Diamond Sparrows are flying about fully reared, and more have just left the nest.

Of all my many species of Doves and Pigeons, only

Geoffroy's Doves have young fully reared. Most of the species have nested and incubated clutches of eggs, which have failed to hatch out.

A hopeful feature is that many species are nesting or prospecting, among which I may mention Hair-crested, and Indigo Buntings, Orange-headed Bullfinches, Pintail Parrot-Finches, and numerous Doves. Besides those enumerated the only other young reared are Budgerigars.

If any of the present nests come off successfully I will send notes later.

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Editorial.

ERRATA: Page 178, line 11, for "Garden Warbler" read Reed Warbler. Page 178, line 12, after "Nightingales" add, Redstarts, Gold-crested Wrens, and Long-tailed Tits.

YELLOW-WING SUGARBIRDS: We regret to have to state that Mrs. E. F. Chawner has been again disappointed in her effort to rear young of this exquisite species (see letter in correspondence section). The young lived to be *seventeen* days old, were fully fledged, and practically ready to leave the nest. A most inadequate reward for the time and labour spent in capturing insects, larvæ, etc.—to have come so near and yet to fail is disappointing indeed! In a larger flight, filled with growing bushes, plants, and their attendant insect parasites, probably complete success would have been attained. A detailed account of this episode would greatly interest her fellow-members.

RED-BEAKED WEAVERS: In several of our members' aviaries young of this species (*Quelea quelea*) have been reared during recent years—we should be glad to know if any member can definitely state whether the young cocks come into full colour, that is, don the black mask the following season, when about one year old. We hope members will record their observations upon this point.

REDSTART: Our member, Mr. W. E. Teschemaker, has successfully bred this charming species we heartily congratulate him on this success.

RUFICAUDA FINCHES: We recently noted in Lady Samuelson's aviaries a family party of this pretty Grassfinch—*six* strong young birds and their parents disporting themselves amid the bushes and herbage. This species is somewhat eratic in its nesting operations, often falling short of complete success, and the rearing of so large a brood not frequent.

Correspondence.

BREEDING RED-COLLARED LORIKEETS.

Sir, I have been very successful with my Red-collared Lorikeets (*Trichoglossus rubritorques*) again. At New Year time I had a fine young pair hatched out. I fed exactly as on the occasion of my previous success, except that no green food was given. They nested in a barrel, and were in a large cage, three feet square at base by six feet high, and it was as easy as rearing canaries, for I did nothing but keep them *well supplied* with food.

MISS E. G W PEDDIE WADDELL.

Slamannan, 17-6-'16.

[It would be of great interest if Miss Peddie Waddell would kindly write an account of her success, for publication in this journal.—Ed.]

PRODUCING A BLUE BUDGERIGAR, ETC.

Sir,—I am pleased to report that I have at last bred a Blue Budgerigar. It was produced by a pair of Greens which I bred, the hen in 1914, and the cock in 1915, both from a green hen (three eighths Blue, three eighths Green and one quarter Yellow).

I bought a few days ago a cock, which was yellow on face, crown of head very dark green, very little yellow on back and not as much as normal on wings, the two long feathers in tail white, with the exception that the tips for three quarters of an inch were blue, other parts green. I also bought two yellow cocks, one with blue tail, the other darker in tail and the blue extending over the rump.

I used to think that Blues were bred from Greens, though I had heard and read that Yellows were used to breed them, and these last make me think they may have been.

Harrogate, 18-6-'16. JOHN W. MARSDEN.

[It would be of general interest if Mr. Marsden would kindly write an article, giving all possible details of the above most interesting event, for publication in this Journal.—Ed.]

NESTING OF YELLOW-WINGED SUGARBIRDS, ETC.

Sir,—You will be interested to hear that my Yellow-winged Sugarbird hatched two young ones on Thursday last, and is a most devoted mother She only uses live food, will not look at ant's eggs or fruit, but catches all sorts of small insects, and, to-day has added tiny mealworms to the menu. I "sweep" for her several times a day, and she quite understands and scrambles about the net pecking over the contents as soon as it is brought into the aviary. The cock accompanies her and drives off other birds but takes no share in feeding or incubating

The young look well, are covered with fluff, and grow fast.

The Indigo Buntings also are nesting, but have only reached the egg stage as yet. I wish I could get hold of a hen Rainbow Bunting for I have a cock which is anxious to go to nest.

Last year someone gave me a crippled cock Greenfinch, which I turned into the aviary; this spring I picked up a hen temporarily disabled and turned her in likewise. They have a nest of young, but I do not know how many.

ETHEL F. CHAWNER.

Lyndhurst, Hants, 18-6-'16.

WHOLESALE FLY-CATCHING.

Sir,—The enclosed newspaper cutting is of interest as describing the methods of capture and preserving of dried flies, and as indicating the extent of the industry.

"Among the Sierra Madres of Mexico, eight thousand feet high "and about fifteen miles from the capital of the republic, is San Vicente, "a town with a population under fifteen hundred. Most of the inhabitants "earn their living by catching flies.

"Although the elevation is so great, San Vicente lies in the "midst of a marsh that surrounds a chain of lakes—Tezcoco, Xochimilco, "and Chalco. Here, in the black mud, subsisting on the rank vegeta-"tion, breed countless millions of black flies, somewhat larger than our "ordinary house fly. Day in, day out, month after month, hundreds "of peons splash about, up to their knees in water. They are dressed "only in cotton trousers, rolled halfway up the thighs, supported by a "banda, or sash, wound many times about the waist, a cotton shirt, and "a great sombrero, or conical wide-brimmed hat. Each is armed with a "fine-meshed long-handled net, and carries a leather or cloth bag slung "by a draw-string from the shoulder. At the approach of the peon the "the flies rise in great clouds, and, as quickly as the peon moves his "arms, snares the insects in the net and literally shovels them into the "bag.

"At the end of the day he takes the bags to certain primitive "presses of wood and stone. Rows of boxes, six inches by six inches "stand side by side. Each box has a lid three or four inches thick, "which fits into the mouth of the box, but so loosely that it can slide "up and down like the plunger on the end of a piston rod.

"The natives shovel the flies into the boxes with wooden paddles. "As fast as each box is filled the men lay the thick lid on the squirming "mass When two lines of boxes have been filled, planks are laid along "the tops of the boxes, and stones to the amount of several hundred-"weight are piled on them. After a day in the press the men empty the "boxes and dry the six-inch cubes of pressed flies in the sun. The "process makes the finest bird food in the world."

These details concerning one of the chief items of the soft-bill menu should be of general interest.

Calcutta, 3-6-'16. E. W. HARPER.

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British Bird Calendar.

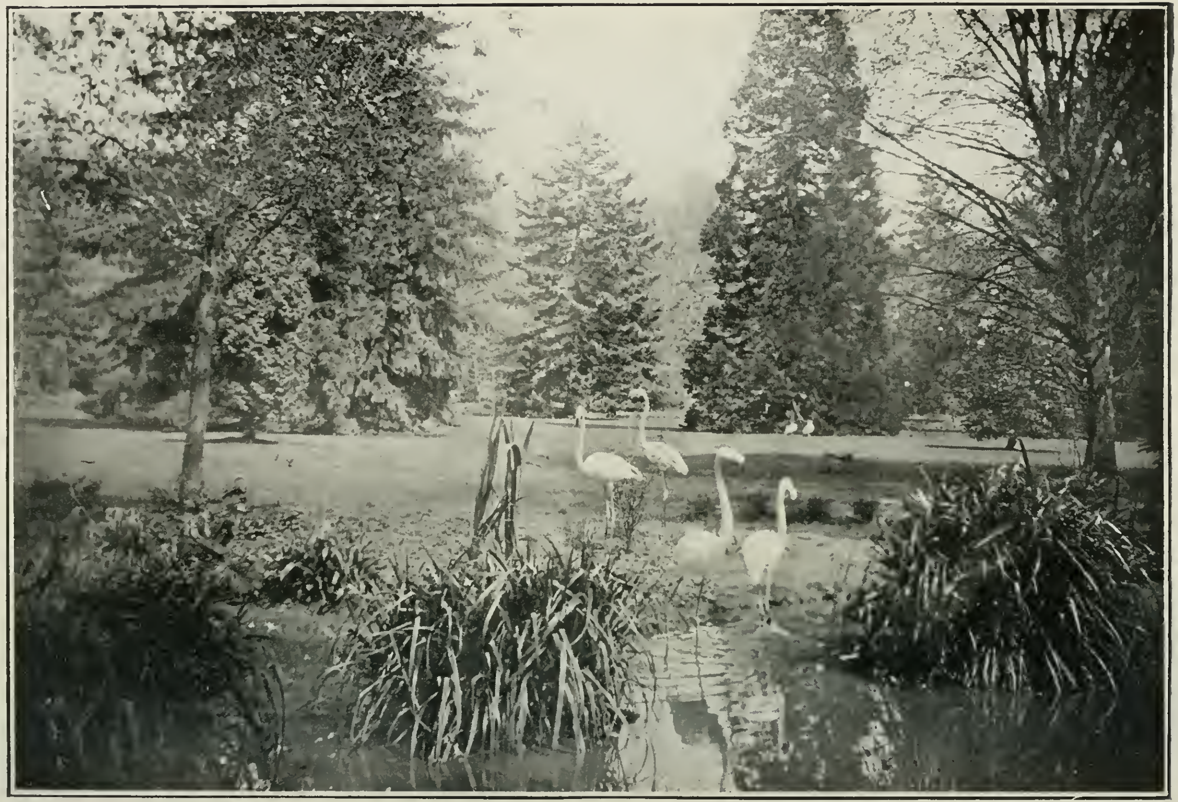
ARRIVALS, ETC., CATERHAM DISTRICT.

April 17.—Tree Pipit.
,, 18.—Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler.
,, 21.—Heard Cuckoo.
,, 24.—Swallows and Yellow Wagtails.
,, 25.—Sand Martins and Wheatears.
May 4.—Swifts (same day as noted 1915!).
,, 9.—Heard Turtle Dove.
,, 19.—Red-backed Shrikes.
,, 21.—Spotted Flycatcher.
June 3.—Wryneck sitting.
,, 4.—Shrikes sitting.
,, 6.—Nightjar sitting.

J. S. R., Caterham, 20-6-'16.

,, 27.—Heard Cuckoo this morning, he is staying late this year, June 22 was the latest date he was heard last year.

R.E.P.G., Sturminster, Newton, 27-6-'1916.



The Flamingoes—Poltimore Park.

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Breeding of Red-collared Lorikeets.

By MISS E. G. R. PEDDIE WADDELL.

Notes have already appeared of the successes of my pair of these beautiful birds in past years, which still continue to nest regularly.

As regards this year's successes, nesting operations commenced in December, 1915. They were kept in a large cage (3 feet square by 6 feet high) in my bird-room. Their cage is fitted with branch-perches and a nesting barrel, hung up at one end near the top, but not so high that I could not see inside by standing on a stool.

The period of incubation was calculated from the first night she spent in the barrel, and exactly twenty-four days later I heard the first sound of young birds. During the incubation period I have noticed, that they consume less food, and the cock bird is often in the nest barrel. For the first week or ten days, though I gave more food than usual they did not eat it all, but after that it was hard work to keep them supplied. I always kept plenty of canary seed in the cage, and in the morning about seven o'clock I lit the gas and gave them two tea biscuits, broken up and moistened with sop, made of Mellin's Food, Horlick's Malted Milk and honey; at midday half a sponge cake dry, and in the evening half a sponge cake soaked in Nestle's milk. I have noticed that after about ten days the hen did not remain constantly in the nest barrel, but only went in to feed and in this duty the cock took his full share. I did not supply any green food as I was afraid it might be frosted. I have also noticed that when feeding young the parent birds prefer the food fairly dry.

I should have said that the young birds appeared simultaneously with the New Year, and they left the barrel two months later. The young birds were very timid at first, and I noticed that the parents each took charge of one special baby, and if the wrong one happened to be next the cock he would not feed it, but flew to where the other one was——I witnessed this pretty and interesting tableau many times.

From the time the young left the nest I began to make their food a little sloppy, but whenever they started to eat canary seed I made it drier, as this contributes to a cleaner cage.

The young birds are much smaller than their parents, but are beautifully coloured and growing daily.

When I came out to the country in April I separated the young from their parents, and put the latter in the compartment in the bird-room which they occupied last year; it is fitted up similarly to the aforementioned cage, and, as I write (June 30) they have two more young birds, about three weeks old, in the barrel.

I consider they are very easily reared; in fact, I do nothing but give them plenty to eat and leave them to themselves, and I have been wonderfully successful with them.

The nest barrel is surprisingly clean when taken down after the young have flown, as, even though it contained plenty of sawdust, the parent birds must have done some cleaning up.

I have also noticed that this wet cold summer does not seem to interfere with their nesting, as it does with canaries.

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Pheasant Rearing Under "Broodies."

By Gerald E. Rattigan.

I think my experiences this season in the gentle art of raising Pheasants, etc., with the aid of "broodies," of various shapes and sizes, may be instructive to the novice, at all events in teaching him or her "some" of the many pitfalls that lie in wait for the unwary. I do not remember to have seen any article dealing with this subject in our magazine, though I feel sure one, from the many members of our club, who have expert knowledge upon the matter, would be of much general interest, and it is largely with the hope of stimulating one or more of them to give us their experiences, that I have embarked upon this short account of my own, for, as will be seen later, I myself, am anything but an expert in the subject in hand.

This, in fact, is the first season in which I have endeavoured to raise Pheasants, etc., on a moderately large scale.

Hitherto, I have, in most seasons, reared a brood or two without any difficulty, or the losing of more than a stray bird here and there, and began to think that the rearing of fancy Pheasants was a very simple, not to say profitable proceeding!

With this conviction firmly planted in my mind, I calculated, basing my calculations on averages from other season, that if I "set" say, 150 eggs, I could count pretty certainly on 120 to 130 pheasants fully reared.

Like the old woman of the fable I was in fact already counting up my "chickens" and congratulating myself on virtuous industry being well rewarded. For the pheasants were quite a side line, and had to be worked into a day already well filled in with other labours in these strenuous times, and, I think, anyone who has raised pheasants on any scale will admit that it is not exactly an arm-chair pastime, especially when, as in my case, one is not provided with special outfit, but has to improvise as one goes along.

I will now describe my various ventures, winding up with the causes to which I attribute my failures.

VENTURE No. 1—My own sitting—(Broody, Silky-Wyandotte cross).

My first venture, to get my hand in as it were, was with a sitting of Silky and Silky cross bantams which, I merely record here for comparison's sake. These having at the moment no other place available, I "set" in a pigeon loft (wooden floor) and unfavourable as these conditions would appear every egg hatched out and all save one, which fell a victim to a hawk, were safely reared. (Of course, when hatched I removed the chicks to a coop outside).

A dozen eggs "set" and 11 chicks safely reared was quite an auspicious beginning!

VENTURE No. 2.—(Set in Stable).

Broody: Black Silky—14 Golden Pheasants (from my own birds).

These were set in one of a four compartment sitting box placed in a stable with stone or cobbled floor. Thirteen chicks duly hatched, one died in shell and another was crushed by broody when emerging from shell. The remaining dozen were put out in a coop and one disappeared the same day.

One of the chief difficulties I have found in dealing with pheasant chicks, as indeed those of Guinea Fowl, and all game birds, is the fact that they seem very prone to wander away and get lost during the first two or three days after hatching, and I am strongly of opinion that all coops should have a wire run fixed on to them of very small (half-inch) mesh wire for at least three or four days after hatching, otherwise losses are almost bound to occur. I fancy that the reason of this wandering is due to the fact that the chicks fail at first to recognise the "clucks" of the broody. The remaining chicks were fully reared to be independent of the broody, which had left them, but I allowed them to remain at large too long, I suppose, for all except one, and two more which I have just caught up, have now vanished. Whether they have wandered off or have fallen a victim to some marauding beast of prey I do not know, but I still entertain a "slight" hope that they may turn up later on. And now disaster follows disaster with tiresome monotony.

VENTURE No. 3.—(Set in Stable).

Broody purchased from farm. Sitting (my own), 16 Goldens, 5 Kaliges

Four Goldens and 1 Kalige infertile.

Nine Goldens and 4 Kalige died in shell.

3 Sickly Goldens hatched, two of which were crushed same day by broody.

VENTURE No. 4.—(Set in Stable).

Farm Broody. Sitting (my own) 13 Goldens; 4 Guinea Fowl; 4 Kalige.

Broody deserted eggs the morning they were due to hatch and though two eggs actually did hatch out in spite of this; having no incubator or artificial foster-mother to put them into, I was unable to save them.

Nearly all the remaining eggs contained fully developed chicks.

VENTURE No. 5. (Stable).

Broody: White Silky cross. Sitting 13 white Guinea Fowl (purchased). Only one egg proved fertile, which duly hatched out, the chick, however, wandered off on being put out and died of exposure.

VENTURE No. 6. (Set in Stable).

Broody: White Silky. Sitting, dozen Silver Pheasants (purchased eggs). Every one proved infertile. One, in fact, that I tested on arrival, proved to be rotten!!!

It is only fair to add that the owner, a lady, returned my cheque, but I lost meanwhile the services of one of my best broodies.

VENTURE NO. 7.—(Stable).

Broody: Farm bird. Sitting 12 Amherst (purchased eggs), and 6 Golden and 2 Kalige (my own).

9 Amherst infertile.

2 or 3 died in shell.

2 or 3 Golden died in shell.

3 or 4 Golden hatched.

1 Kalige died in shell.

1 Kalige hatched.

All save one Kalige and one, either Golden or Amherst, subsequently crushed by broody.

(VENTURE No. 8.—(Stable).

Broody: Farm bird. Sitting 12 Silver Pheasants (purchased), 1 Silky (my own).

6 Silvers died in shell.

4 Silvers infertile.

2 Silvers hatched but crushed by broody same day.

Silky died in shell.

VENTURE No. 9.—(Set in pigeon loft).

Broody: Silky-Belgium cross. Sitting 12 Goldens.

Every one died in shell.

VENTURE No. 10.

Broody: Black Silky. Sitting 18 Californian Quail; 1 Silky (my own).

Incubation first 16 days in stable; remainder of period set out of doors.

All but five dead in shell, remainder, and Silky chick doing well.

VENTURE No. 11.

Broody: Farm bird. Sitting 14 Guinea Fowl (my own).

(This lot and all subsequent "sittings" were set in same sitting boxes with wire netting bottoms, but placed out of doors under the shelter of thick rhododendron bushes).

12 hatched and doing well.

VENTURE No. 12.

Broody: Farm bird. Sitting 13 White Guinea Fowl (purchased); 2 Silkies (my own).

3 Guinea Fowl infertile.

2 dead in shell.

The two Silkies and remaining 8 Guinea Fowl doing well, save one of the latter, whose death I cannot account for.

VENTURE No. 13.

Broody: Game Bantam. Sitting 6 Goldens; 4 Kalige; 4 believed Game Bantam and Guinea Fowl cross.

Game hen made a nest at the bottom of a thick hedge and as it was wonderfully well hidden I decided to let her take her chance, adding the Pheasants' eggs and leaving four of her own. (She has been paired to a cock Guinea Fowl all the season, the two having been quite inseparable.) !

These eggs after she had been sitting 16 days, began to disappear until all except five had gone and the hen herself deserted. I suspected a hedgehog or a rat, but to my surprise a trap baited with an egg produced a stoat.

Further investigation disclosed a regular collection of eggs some 10 yards further down the hedge, which consisted of 2 Goldens, 3 Kalige, 2 Bantams, and 4 small white eggs about the size of a pigeons. What these eggs are I have no idea.

I don't think I know of any other kind of white eggs of this size except a pigeon's, and surely they could not be that!

Perhaps some of our members can help me to identify them.

I have put them for the present under a bantam, but don't expect for a moment they will be any good, in which case I would be very pleased to send them on to any member for identification. The nearest pigeon loft is at least 60 yards away, and this, a small one, to which there is no possible entry from the ground so far as I can see, is situated on a lawn near the house.

Moreover the eggs, while about the size of a pigeon's are not quite the same shape and I can't think that they do belong to one of these birds.

Though what else they could possibly be, I admit, completely baffles me.

It seems rather curious, too, that this animal did not apparently attack the broody, nor, as will appear later, was this his only depredation at my expense, neither did he interfere with yet another broody whose clutch he raided.

Nor for the matter of that did I lose any bantams, either, adult or young, which are always scratching about in this particular hedge.

Possibly the numerous young rabbits which are swarming everywhere provided all the meat he required for the moment, in which case it rather tends to prove that, providing a sufficiency of the latter is obtainable, the stoat family is content to sign a truce with feathered game. However that may be, this animal was either an enthusiastic egg-collector or he was endeavouring to "corner" the egg supply of the district, for none of the eggs recovered appeared to have been injured in any way.

(*To be continued*).

Visits to Members' Aviaries. and Birdrooms.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

Lady Samuelson's Aviaries: I was recently privileged, one July afternoon, to see these aviaries and their occupants at Hatchford Park, Cobham. The aviaries are, as yet, in their infancy, and consist of some half dozen enclosures, the the main one of which has a heated shelter at the back. There has been much encouragement already this season, though some hoped for successes, have, since my visit, had to be relegated to the category of "all-buts"! However, all aviculturists get their share of these, and when the contemplated natural flights are completed, "all-buts" will be reduced to a minimum.

The area of ground, which is given up to the present aviaries and prospective ones, is well sheltered grassland amid the beautiful gardens of Hatchford Park. The general plan of the aviaries at present is a snug shelter, with a moderate sized flight in front of same, at present not naturally planted, though the main aviary contains a number of box and privet bushes etc., in pots and tubs, providing a certain amount of cover to its occupants.

With this introduction, I shall leave further description till a later date, when I shall hope to be able to illustrate the prospective and present aviaries.

As regards occupants, the main aviary contains:

Melba, Rufous-tailed Grass, Gouldian, Zebra, Alario, and Pintailed Parrot Finches; Cordon Bleus, Rainbow Bunting, Blue-breasted, and St.

Helena Waxbills; and Indian White-eyes.

There are young Zebra Finches *galore* and a pleasing picture they made, parents and young, some of the latter still being fed and others quite independent and assisting their parents with their latest babies. Another pleasing success has been the rearing of a brood of *six* young Rufous-tailed Grassfinches, and a fascinating sight the family party was—all are still (July 27) living and fine strong young birds. The other records have not so pleasant an ending, as they form part of the "all-but" successes already referred to. A pair of Melba Finches nested in the outside flight in one of the bushes, and duly hatched out four healthy chicks; all went well for ten days, when three of them were picked up dead in various parts of the aviary and one found dead in the nest—storms and cold nights were the suspected cause. Blue-breasted Waxbills, similarly nested and hatched out two young birds, one of which was ultimately found beneath the nest and the other hanging out of the nest, both dead of course—in this case the interference of other birds (St. Helena Waxbills) is suspected. The writer is of the opinion that had the flight been larger, and with an abundance of natural cover, both the Melba Finches and Blue-breasted Waxbills would have successfully brought up their broods; as he noticed considerable competition among the birds for the existing cover, However it is not all discouragement, as Lady Samuelson is the fortunate possessor of *breeding pairs*.

All the birds were in the pink of condition, and I do not remember to have seen a richer coloured or finer specimen in any way than the cock Melba Finch. The young Rufous-tails were just beginning to show a little red about the head.

The other (smaller) aviaries were occupied by Canaries, Goldfinches, Pekin Robins, and Diamond Sparrows. The Pekin Robins and Diamond Sparrow are indefatigable at nesting and incubating, but so far, without any definite result.

Lieut. Bainbridge's Aviaries: I had the pleasure of spending July 20 and 21 with my colleague and fellow aviculturist, who was enjoying a short furlough from his duties at the front. He has not lost any of his keenness for aviculture, in fact, short as his holiday has been, much of it has been spent among his birds, some new acquisitions have been made, and during my stay, one aviary which has been empty for a twelvemonth, was peopled with two pairs of Melba Finches, and five pairs of Gouldian Finches, and an exquisite living picture they made too!

These aviaries have been described and illustrated in past issues of "Bird Notes," so I need only remark that they had vastly improved, the bush and plant life having greatly developed and that there is now an *abundance* of natural cover for the feathered inhabitants. The young Zebra Finches were very numerous, and more than one brood of Red-headed Finches was on the wing. A beautiful young Indian White-eye, quite independent of its parents (nesting again), made a fascinating picture as it disported amid the living green. Waxbills, pairs of Gouldian and Diamond Finches were nesting, as also were the aforenamed birds and Diamond Doves—the last named have already two young birds on the wing, the whole forming a charming picture of happy bird-life not easily to be described, all the more appreciated by the writer, as owing to a change of residence, etc., he is deprived of the pleasure of his aviaries for this season.

Not one whit less pleasant was our avicultural talk, and anticipations of the "to be" when the "piping times of peace" come round again.

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The Delicate Life-Thread of the Young Grey Parrot.

By M.D. (U.S.A.).

Young Parrots, before learning to eat seed, commonly are fed with starchy foods of some sort. Now the envelope of certain starch granules becomes digestible only after more and different cooking than even the most careful person is likely to give it.

Birds have extremely rapid digestive processes. Twice its weight in food is none too much for a young wild bird to assimilate daily. If the nutrient fluids pass so swiftly through the membrances of stomach and lower digestive tract into the circulation, equally prompt will be the absorption of noxious fluids or substances in solution.

In acute indigestion exactly this occurs. Commonly with young birds it is starch-indigestion—if I am permitted so inexact a term. Acid fermentation is in progress and the by-products formed by the splitting up of the ferments pour into the blood. Some of these by-products are active toxins—poisons.

Is it strange that the bird shows symptoms of digestive disturbance and, as these poisons continue to flood his tissues, becomes quiet, lethargic, comatose, and dies?

A young Grey Parrot of mine, not yet feathered out fully, became listless. His discharges were bad; he vomited scantily, and had recurrent attacks of palpitation with the accompanying quickened respiration. Then he drowsily settled himself upon his perch to die. So weak, apparently, had he become that already he was swaying from side to side preliminary to the final fall to the cage bottom. All this within six hours.

We put an electric flat-iron under his cage-covering and turned on the current. We floated a few drops of castor-oil upon a dilution of blackberry brandy in which was a pinch of Sodium Bicarbonate and urged it down the little fellow's throat. In a few minutes he had brightened up and in twenty minutes he was trying to move about on his perch, fighting his way from his perilous position *in articulo mortis.*

So cramped and drawn up were the bird's tendons and feet, that he fell from the perch and fluttered about pitifully. We rolled him in a blanket, put the clenched feet in a hot bath, and massaged out the drawn-up tendons and tightly closed feet. Then, at half-hour intervals all night long we gave him the brandy dilution and alkali. Next day the bird was practically well.

So swiftly do these toxins develop and invade the circulation, so rapidly are they absorbed, so overwhelming is their effect, that this alone is ample explanation why so many birds apparently well at night are found dead in the morning.

A young Parrot's digestive apparatus is more sensitive than a baby's; the least carelessness or uncleanness in feeding is likely to cause swift and fatal mischief.

In a like situation I should again treat with castor oil for the gastric or gastro-enteric trouble, with brandy and heat to provide the requisite stimulation, and with an alkali to neutralize the acid fermentation. I do not suggest the dosage because whoever has not judgment sufficient to modify that according to conditions will doubtless lose his patient anyhow.

May I say—to prevent in this case the common and undue confidence in printed words—that I know very little about Parrots.

◆

Dawn Amongst the Birds in an Egyptian Garden.

By M.P.

It is interesting to notice how the smaller kinds of birds wake earliest, in fact the Warblers begin singing first. It is now high summer, and to secure some rest I sleep in the cooler air on an upstairs verandah, the quiet peace of which is brought to an end at the first hint of morning light. The Olivaceous Warbler (*Hypolais pallida*) begins with a most persistent song, one wonders how the little fellow keeps his breath to the finish. Then the tiny Graceful Warbler (*Prinia gracilis*) carols in a higher key. We know about the nest, in a clump of Pampas grass just below the verandah! The Rufous Warbler (*Aedon galactodes*) comes hopping along, fanning his tail, down by the Vine Pergola, giving forth short but lovely notes.

The Palm Doves (*Turtur senegalensis*) coo to each other, and Sparrows chirp as the world over.

A certain number of birds are coming in to roost, Night Herons (*Nycticorax griseus*) come home with much noise of "cluck cluck," and settle down in a great Banyan tree, to sleep through the hot hours of the day, already a Grey Heron (*Ardea cinera)* has finished fishing in the canal near by. The "Caravan" (*Oedicnemus senegalensis*) shrieks some final directions to worship, and a Barn Owl or two silently flits across.

Over the roof like flashes of light, dart four or five Kingfishers (*Ceryle rudis*), going straight to the Nile to fish therein; they are very noisy birds on the wing though looking very beautiful hovering over the water to catch fish. Presently two Egyptian geese (*Chenalopex aegyptiacus*) hurl themselves all round the garden, making a great amount of noise, also Hooded Crows (*Corvus cornix*) "caw" loudly, generally quite close to me on the verandah railing! A small Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) circles round, uttering a shrill cry all the time. lastly an Egyptian Kite (*Milvus aegyptius*) with much wing flapping wheels up from some fir trees in great numbers, to meet the sun that is just tinting the tops of the trees and Palms vivid gold and shining green, and all the individual songs of birds merge into one great chorus of praise and joy and I give up hope of going to sleep again, in fact I feel rather pleased to have enjoyed the society of such a varied number of happy uncaged birds.

◆

The History of the Budgerigar

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., Etc.

"Mons. Pauvvel, with that keen avicultural zeal of his had discovered the whereabouts of the original strain, heard of by many but seen by very, very few. We were fully cognisant that a Dutchman some 25 years ago had produced this charming variety, but at his death they had been disposed of, to whom and to what place they had been transferred remained unknown, until by sheer good luck and watchfulness, Mons. Pauvvels unearthed their obscurity. When once this knowledge had become ours, the next question was to secure all particulars, which were quickly forthcoming, only to confirm the facts already known, that the then lucky possessor, a lady living in a remote district of another country had secured the two pairs belonging to the Dutchman at his death, and not being deeply interested in aviculture, but like many others, kept birds for the love of them and their beauty, had during the intervening years kept these birds in her possession steadily, very steadily I should imagine, breeding them.

"Mons. Pauvvel's desire in bird life being to possess the unique, the next move was to either secure the existing lot, or as many as

" possible, and to arrange for the monopoly of the others remaining in
" the lady's possession. The latter was the offer accepted, as the lady
" would not part with her old breeding pairs, and that is exactly how
" matters stand—the monopoly of these charming, unique, beautiful birds,
" remains in our hands at least for a few seasons so it is unlikely they
" will become at all common for some years. . . .

" There is no question but that we are on the eve of most interest-
" ing experiments . . . . It is most satisfactory to be able to say
" this newly acquired variety is no freak, it is assured and established,
" its colour is absolutely fixed, and they breed true to colour and type.
" They are not lacking in any way, but fine, robust specimens, whilst the
" type is even an improvement upon the original imported strain."

" Whilst to some extent they have been in-bred, no signs of such
" are in evidence, because each generation has more and more fixed their
" pigmentary tissues in the production of this strain by freely crossing
" with the Green and Yellow varieties. In each instance where this cross
" has been made the young have been true to the colour of the respective
" varieties, by which I mean where the blue and green have mated the
" young truly represented either the Blue or Green type—no spots or
" freaks, no mismarked or unsightly young. Personally, I am hoping,
" sincerely hoping, for a few of the former, so that I may by careful
" study and, by systematic mating, create something equally startling as
" the Blues . . .

" At present I believe the whole of the Blues living to-day are
" in three hands only,—the lady already spoken of, Mons. Pauvvels, and
" the London Zoological Society, a pair having been presented to them
" by Monsieur Pauvvels.* I do not think it will remain so. Keen as
" Monsieur Pauvvels is to hold unique specimens, his interest in our mutual
" hobby and study of bird life, will prevent him reserving the study of
" this interesting variety to himself—his main object in this instance will be
" to restrict, as far as possible, their becoming at all common for some
" years."

In " Bird Notes " of the following year (1912) there there is a suggestive note (p. 216) by the Rev. J. M. Paterson on the influence of dull light, or rather protection from direct sunlight, on the production of the blue colour, which is due to loss of the protective yellow pigment not needed under such conditions. Young bred by him are mentioned on page 297 of the same volume as showing indications of blue and white in their plumage.

M. Pauvvel's collection of birds was dispersed in 1912 and many of his birds found new homes in England, among them a certain number of the Blue Budgerigars.*

In "Bird Notes" for 1914 we again are indebted to Mr. Millsum for another valuable article from which, on the principle that one cannot have too much of a good thing, I boldly again quote wholesale.

Having learnt that but little success had been met with by the new owners of the birds after they had passed out of his charge, he writes (p. 25) that he thought it worth while recording what he believed "from practical experience to be the only methods to real success." He says "two conditions are absolutely essential for the successful breeding of these birds," and these conditions together with other advice he gives in the following words:

> "(1). The birds must not be subject to any powerful light, my
> "contention being that powerful rays of light reduce the stamina of the
> "of the birds. It must not be forgotten that their beautiful colour, a rich
> "sky-blue, though pure, is not natural, having undoubtedly been produced
> "by selection; therefore I suggest a semi-darkened indoor aviary or flight.
> "not allowing any direct or powerful rays of light to enter any portions
> "of their enclosure.
>
> "(2). Birds must not be allowed to mate until fully two years
> "old. This is a most important item, and has been in the past the
> "greatest cause of non-success. As with the Green variety, these birds
> "will mate when quite young, but it is rarely with success. The young
> "of such birds are anaemic and often infected with rickets, as well, the
> "colour exceedingly poor, more like grey than blue, they do not thrive,
> "and but a very small percentage live to any age. The parent birds
> "are more liable to egg-binding, and when this occurs the chances for
> "recovery are very small.
>
> "My advice then, is this, if too impatient for the birds to be-
> "come fully adult, dispose of the birds. I know, for I speak with ex-
> "perience I made the same mistake. In the year 1911 I had about
> "30 of these delightful birds under my care at Everberg, and being
> "anxious to breed them freely, I located them in three large aviaries,
> "each with a large open out-door flight. I had visions of such a lovely
> "flock by the end of that year. My visions, did not however, material-
> "ise. Plenty of eggs and a fair number of young, but I finished up
> "the season with I believe ten, and not a fine youngster among them.
> "These were sold in one lot to a dealer on the Continent. So much

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*What about the Belgian breeder Mr. Millsum tells us about later? No doubt Mr. M. inadvertently omitted him, or only met him after this was written.—E.H.

In the Catalogue of M. Pauvvels' sale, Blue Budgerigars were priced "at 15 guineas a pair for adults, 12 guineas for birds of the year.

"for that attempt, but why my failure? I meant to find out. Within "a few miles of these aviaries I knew a Belgian fancier with "a few of these birds, three pairs, I believe, but was nevertheless having "fine success, breeding good colours and fine robust youngsters, as many "as six in one nest. I visited him several times and had a good look "round, seeking all the information possible. His birds were flying "loose in quite a darkened out-house, the adult birds in one compart- "ment, the young in another. Breeding boxes were permitted in the "spring and summer and removed in the early autumn. Hence his success, "and he admitted this was the only secret."

The more recent history of the Blue Budgerigars is not, I am afraid, a very cheerful one. Quite a large number must have come to England, but as far as can be gathered from the pages of the avicultural journals but comparatively few have been bred The Zoo had one or a pair of M. Pauvvel's birds and later purchased four more blue birds, but these were young bad-coloured specimens, which did not long survive. A glance through the back numbers of "Bird Notes," enables us to give the following list of recent owners of Blue Budgerigars, Astley, Beaty, Clare, Fasey, Hawke, Poltimore, Sutton, Tavistock. [These aviculturists will, I trust, pardon this bare list and omission of titles, sexual or otherwise, but I am trusting to notes jotted down some time ago].

There are no doubt also others whom I have missed, but anyhow with all these chances the number of Blues bred, as far as one can gather from what has been recorded and from report, seems very small. Mr. Astley has been successful, but not as successful as he would wish. Some of his bred in a cage in the winter of 1913, an occurrence he records in the "Avicultural Magazine," 1914, p. 178. Other records of success which I find in "Bird Notes" are on p. 30, 1913 (Pelham Sutton), and p. 62, 1914 (a Devon Aviculturist). The last it is noted was bred from Green (blue-bred) parents.

No doubt there are other successes, of which I know nothing, but nearly all the other references to this variety in recent numbers of "Bird Notes" refer to failure, usually due to infertile eggs.

Such then is the present position of the Blue Budgerigar and one can only hope that it is in reality a little rosier in outlook, than one would gather from the above, and that there *are* other successes which I have overlooked or which have never been reported. Both the Green and the Yellows soon got past the stage of shy-breeding, etc.; it only seems right that this new variety should follow in their steps, notwithstanding the fact that its requirements seem somewhat unnatural.

On its actual origin it will be seen that I have been able to throw very little light, and it really appears as if nothing very definite is now known, or at any rate published, on this point. The question, which one would specially wish to have answered, i.e. whether the present day birds are direct descendants of those known before the eighties or not, is one on which our informants are silent.

Over the history of this feathered gem I fain would linger, but having been always strongly of opinion that one may bore a reader with impunity for, say, half an hour, but that it is unwise to presume on his forbearance too much, and expect him put up with an unlimited number of pages, I will make a move towards an end, but must just refer (even at the risk of the metaphoric boot) to one other little point of interest in connection with the general history of the Budgerigar.

This is the question; was the common charge laid against dealers, in the days when cocks largely exceeded the hens in number, a true one or not? They were accused of burning with caustic the ceres of a certain number of cocks, to change the tell-tale blue to the brown proper to the opposite sex, in order to sell them as such. Gedney and other writers make statements to this effect, but Dr. Greene appears for the defence, saying (The Amateur's Aviary) that the story is unworthy of credit and quite devoid of foundation. He appears to be almost alone on this side, and at any rate the story was very commonly believed, whether true or not.

While on the question of sex, two delightful pieces of advice as to distinguish these, lure me to quote again. The first I find in Gedney's Foreign Cage Birds, Part I. p. 20, and runs thus:

"As a test of sex, put the birds one by one into a small travelling cage, "and make believe to catch them. The males will all cry out, keeping "up a continual 'ping! ping! ping!' but the hens never make any "noise. This is the best check which inexperienced amateurs can adopt "if they have any doubt about their pets."

The other is given by Dr. Butler in "Foreign Birds for Cage and Aviary (Part II. p. 239) with strong backing of Mr. Abrahams' authority and is to the effect that hens draw blood when they bite, and that cocks do not, so that, as he neatly puts it, "if you purchase your birds after the breeding season you have nothing to do but let every specimen bite you, and the first which draws blood will be a hen."

With this digression from the strait historical path I will conclude, adding a hope that these pages will provoke comment and further information on the many points still left in the mists, so that the wish I expressed earlier of a really complete history of this bird may be realised at no distant date. I may mention some of the points, which have suggested themselves to me on re-reading what I have written. "Further information on the actual pigment-change in the Blue Budgerigar. 2. Were there ever really White Budgerigars, and where? How many Blue Budgerigars are there in England now? Cannot some of our readers give us a census?

(*Concluded from page* 151).

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Editorial.

We regret that the pressure of many duties has prevented the continuation of the article "Endurance of Birds," it will, however, be resumed as soon as Mr. Page can collate his data, some of which is astray, owing to his recent change of residence.

NESTING NOTES: The following have been sent in (see others under Correspondence).

L. PULLAR (Bridge of Earn).

Wild Duck.—4 fully reared.

Golden Pheasants.—Produced 18 eggs, all infertile—I think new blood is needed.

Californian Quail.—16 eggs being incubated by a broody hen.

Ring-neck Parrakeets.—3 eggs laid, all infertile.

Quaker Parrakeets.—4 eggs laid, one young bird being fed in nest.

Turtle and Stock Doves.—Both incubating clutches of eggs.

Budgerigars.—laid and incubated, but the Quaker Parrakeets destroyed the eggs.

Red-billed Weavers.—Have built many nests, but not produced any eggs.

C. F. CROW (Grimsby).

Have fully reared young:

Cutthroats, Saffron Finches and Canaries.

Believed to be incubating:

Java Sparrows, Spice and Firefinches, and Combasous.

Had eggs:

Red-headed Finches.

Nesting:

Ruficauda Finches.

MRS CHATTERTON (Crouch End).

St Helena Seedeater × Canary. Paired at once, when put together in an ordinary breeding cage, and a clutch of eggs was quickly produced, which were incubated fourteen days, when all (3) hatched out and are now fully reared, being fine, handsome, strong young birds.

DR. LOVELL-KEAYS (East Hoathley).

Latest results are as follows:

2. Grey-winged Ouzels on the wing.
2. African White-eyes on the wing.
3. Zebra Finches on the wing.
Several Napoleon Weavers on the wing.

} Not results of the season but recent happenings

Black Tanagers left the nest but were drowned.

Correspondence.

REARING OF A ROSEFINCH AND GREENFINCH HYBRID.

Sir,—I claim to have bred what, I believe, may be a new hybrid viz.: between a Siberian Rosefinch (*Carpodacus erithrinus*), and a Greenfinch (*Ligurinus chloris*). I do not know whether (if it is new) the evidence will be held sufficiently satisfactory to qualify for a medal, as I can only rely upon the appearance of the young bird, I have no doubt myself as to its parentage, but never saw any male bird taking any interest whatever in the hen Greenfinch, at the time it was laying and incubating its eggs. There are several unattached males in my small aviary, viz.: Linnet, Redpoll, Chaffinch, and a Bloodstained Finch. This last bird is of a most ardent temperament, and has sent a hen Canary three times to nest this season—so far without result. You may remember I did get a young one of this cross a year or two ago, and exhibited it in London. Now the Greenfinch has gone to nest again, and there is little doubt that *this time* it is paired with the Bloodstained Finch. I feel that the young bird in question must stand or fall by its appearance; and as I

The Waterfowl—Poltimore Park.

say I have personally no doubt whatever as to its parentage. This evidence may not be sufficient, however; and I shall be very glad if you will tell me quite plainly what you think. I may say I have shown the young bird to two experienced fanciers (one of whom is my fellow-member Mr. Sykes) and they agree with my view. The general appearance and contour of the bird much resemble the Siberian Rosefinch, the shape of head and beak being identical.

W. R. TOMLINSON.

Inveresk, 21-7-'16.

[One object, the main object of the medals is to secure fully detailed accounts of respective successes. Our member should send in a detailed description of the young bird, and all the details he can concerning its rearing, as well as naming the other occupants of the aviary. It will then lie with the "Awards Committee" to decide whether a medal can be granted. ED.].

SUCCESSFUL BREEDING OF JACKSON'S WHYDAH AND A HYBRID SPARROW.

Sir,—It will probably be of some interest to members, that I have a brood of Jackson's Whydahs (*Drepanoplectes jacksoni*) quite independent of their parents. Also a young hybrid Sparrow, *Passer domestica* × *P. arcuata.* I have also a brood of Bearded Tits. I will supply notes of these episodes for our next issue.

Westbury, 31-7-'16. WM. SHORE-BAILY

NESTING OF LORIKEETS, B.H. CONURES AND YELLOW GROSBEAKS

Sir,—I have three young Black-headed Conures (*Conurus nenday*) in the nest, also a pair of Yellow Grosbeaks (*Pheuticus chrysogaster*) have a couple of young in the nest. The Cranes have their annual brood, and the Red-naped Lorikeets (*Trichoglossus rubritorques*) continue to increase.

Ecclefechan, 17-21-7-'1916. E. J. BROOK.

[Thus tersely (the extracts were made from ordinary correspondence, not penned for publication) Mr. Br. Brook alludes to several most interesting episodes · it would be of general interest if he would kindly send in a detailed account of same for next issue of "B.N." ED].

NESTING NOTES OF THE SEASON.

Sir, Some of the nesting episodes mentioned in my former notes have not materialised, but many species are still attempting to reproduce their kind. On my return from a brief holiday down South I found one young Pope Cardinal fully reared and quite strong on the wing; also a young Virginian Cardinal in the nest. A brood of young Cuban Finches were also flying about. Two more young Geoffrey's Doves are just ready to fly. Two more young Masked (Cape) Doves are in the nest. The following species are all feeding young in the nest: Long-tail Grassfinches, Diamond Sparrows and Malabar Mynahs. Another brood of Bearded Reedlings have been hatched out, but not reared. The first brood of Himalayan Siskin × Greenfinch hybrids are now quite vigorous and have been independent of their parents for some time, who now have another nestful of youngsters just ready to fly. My Parrot Finches are incubating and, the Gouldian Finches playing about with nesting material and visiting a husk for the first time this year. The Himalayan Bullfinches are building again, just as they did last year, and I hope they may go one better this year and rear young, they are certainly fit enough.

Cressington Park, July 28-'16 HERBERT BRIGHT.

[Extracts from a private letter. Ed]

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Some Colony Birds.

Reprinted from "TIMEHRI" (The Journal of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana), May, 1915; with compliments and thanks to the Author and Editors.—Ed. "B.N."

(*Continued from page* 182).

THE WHITE-BREASTED PARROT. Of all the feathered I have ever possessed in this country or any other, the seven-coloured-parrot, as this bird is generally called, is the most entertaining.

Pionites melanocephalus, its scientific name, may be translated: "the black-headed little fatty."

The one I once possessed was the first I had ever seen in the flesh. I had seen, of course, the Museum specimens; but a bird never interests me except as a link in Nature's long chain, until I have a living example and can hold it in my hand and study its ways. I was making a missionary journey on the Barama River in the North West District and slung my hammock for the night at the farm of a half-cast aboriginal Indian, of a type that is rare, for he was working his farm according to approved methods. The little parrot sat perched above the entrance of the loggia as I approached and I was at once struck by the bright green of the back; he seemed to have a satin coat on.

I found that he was treated like a member of the family, and was as playful as a kitten and as knowing and mischievous as a monkey. The children and he would run races or play hide and seek; and when it was his turn to hide and they couldn't find him, he would come slyly out of his hiding-place and nip the bare foot of the nearest child. Seeing that I had taken a fancy to him my host courteously said: "Father, if you like him, he is yours." It was of no use my protesting that I should be depriving his children of their pet. "Oh, there are plenty more: sometimes we get whole flocks of them."

Melanocephalus is seven inches in length, the tail, as is the case of all parrots (using the word now in its limited signification) being short. The head is large and the body sturdy. The back, wings, and tail are a vivid grass green; the breast is snowy white; the sides, thighs and vent, as well as the neck, a beautiful orange; the cheeks, yellow ticked with white; the crown of the head, and the beak are black; the bare skin around the eyes is also black, so that the bird seems to be wearing a cap slouched over the eyes; but the eyes are prominent, being red. The cere is indigo, and there is a patch of dark green at the cornersof the the mouth. The bastard wing is blue; the green of the back, at the nape of the neck, is also blue; and the black cap is edged with the same colour. The under-wing coverts are brick-red and the primaries are tipped with black; the feet are black also. I may remark that those in captivity, are seldom clean-looking, for the bird is always getting into mischief and requires frequent bathing; but he repays all the trouble, for then he is in truth an object of beauty: the feathers having the appearance of clean wool, as the back and the wings of satin.

A friend of mine had a pair of these beautiful birds; but they had to be kept in a cage for, content with their own company, they would, through mutual jealousy, allow no interference, biting savagely if approached, and laughing all the time. I dubbed them at once "the heavenly twins," after the hero and heroine in Sarah Grand's famous novel, for they were up to all sorts of mischief, and were perfect acrobats, twisting around their perches, swinging, and putting their heads between their legs, leaping up, dancing and whistling. If one of them came to the bars of the cage and was shewn any attention, the other would dash at it in jealous rage and squabbling would go on for some time before they were reconciled again.

I am ashamed to say that these beautiful birds are too fond of eating and may actually die of surfeit if their food is not properly regulated. They may be taught to say a few words but are not good talkers.

(*To be continued*).

Obituary.

The Club has sustained a severe loss in the death of Lieut.-Col. B. R. Horsbrugh, A.S.C: He had been in active service since the outbreak of the war, and during this period has had more than one illness. He was in action at Loos and elsewhere. Only a few months previous to the outbreak of war, he presided at the Club's Annual Dinner at the Holborn Restaurant, and took a keen interest in the progress of the F.B.C. He was a keen lover of birds, and personally and otherwise imported many rare species, and did much to advance the cult of Aviculture. The writer not only misses a fellow member but a friend.—W.T.P.

We tender our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Anningson in her great bereavement, her husband, Dr. B. Anningson; having passed away on July 19th after a long illness.—Ed.

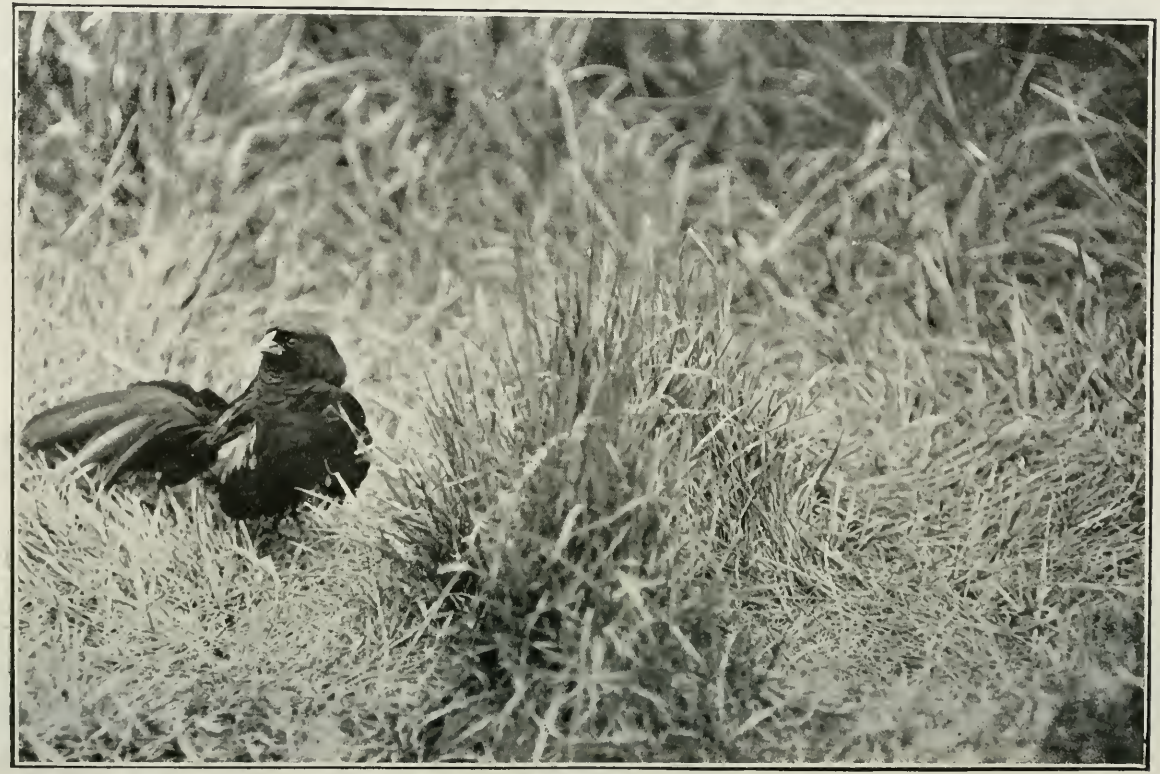

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Jackson's Whydah on its Dancing-ground.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Breeding of Jackson's Whydahs.

By W. Shore Baily.

Notes on the life and habits of this bird have appeared in "B.N." from time to time, but so far nothing has appeared as to its nesting in captivity in this country. I think myself lucky, therefore, to be able to send you this short account of what is probably the first case of successful breeding in the British Isles.

I secured my pair of birds from our member, Mr. G. E. Low, and later on this gentleman was kind enough to let me have a second hen, a great advantage from a breeder's point of view, as these birds are polygamous. The cock was in full plumage, and I must say that I thought him very handsome, with his drooping tail and stately carriage.

On their arrival I turned them into a large cage, with a variety of other birds, all smaller than themselves. With these they agreed very well, although at first the small birds were pretty badly scared when the cock made one of his wild swoops into their midst. However, the little chaps soon got used to this, and I am bound to say that Mr. Jackson made no real attempt to harm them, and this they evidently well understood. Early in January the cock began to go out of colour. The long black tail feathers were the first to go, then the body feathers began to change colour, so that in the course of a fortnight he was only distinguishable from his mates by his larger size, and by his bigger frontal shield. This shield is very conspicuous in the male when he is out of colour, but is not nearly so noticeable when he is in his breeding dress. One would have thought that the exact opposite would have been the case,* as the shield is ivory white in colour, and it should contrast with the black plumage of the head.

In the middle of May I turned all three birds into a large aviary, the greater part of which was in grass. Here they were thoroughly at home, and the cock soon prepared his circular playground. On the 20th of the month I noticed that he was showing black on his breast; by June 7th his tail was grown and he now began displaying on his playground, which was from three to four feet in diameter, a tuft of grass about a foot high being left in the centre, the grass surrounding it running from two to three feet high. In this miniature amphitheatre he, many times a day, went through the most wonderful evolutions. At one time, after circling around the central tuft of grass, with wings brushing the ground, and with head thrown back touching the tail he would suddenly turn and charge straight at it, the neck feathers forming a distinct ruff. At another he would indulge in a series of high jumps, his tail spread, and his other feathers very much puffed up. These jumps, just about clearing the top of the surrounding grass, which, as I have stated, was in places about three feet high. He would vary these proceedings by short flights to and from a near by tree, all the time keeping up his apology for a song. The hens meantime look on from the shelter of the long grass. After this had been going on for a week or two I noticed one of the hens carrying grass. By careful watching I was able to locate the nest. This was built entirely of grass, the living grass being bent over so as to form a shelter, which was capable of protecting the occupants of the nest from all but the heaviest thunderstorms. It was neatly lined with flowering grasses. Three pear-shaped eggs were laid, greenish-white, blotched and spotted with various shades of brown and grey. One I removed for my collection, and the other two hatched after an incubation period of twelve days. The young when newly born were naked and flesh coloured. They were fed upon grass seeds, millet, and canary. No live or artificial foods were provided. I am in-

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*The nuptial plumage is fuller and extends somewhat over the shield.—Ed.

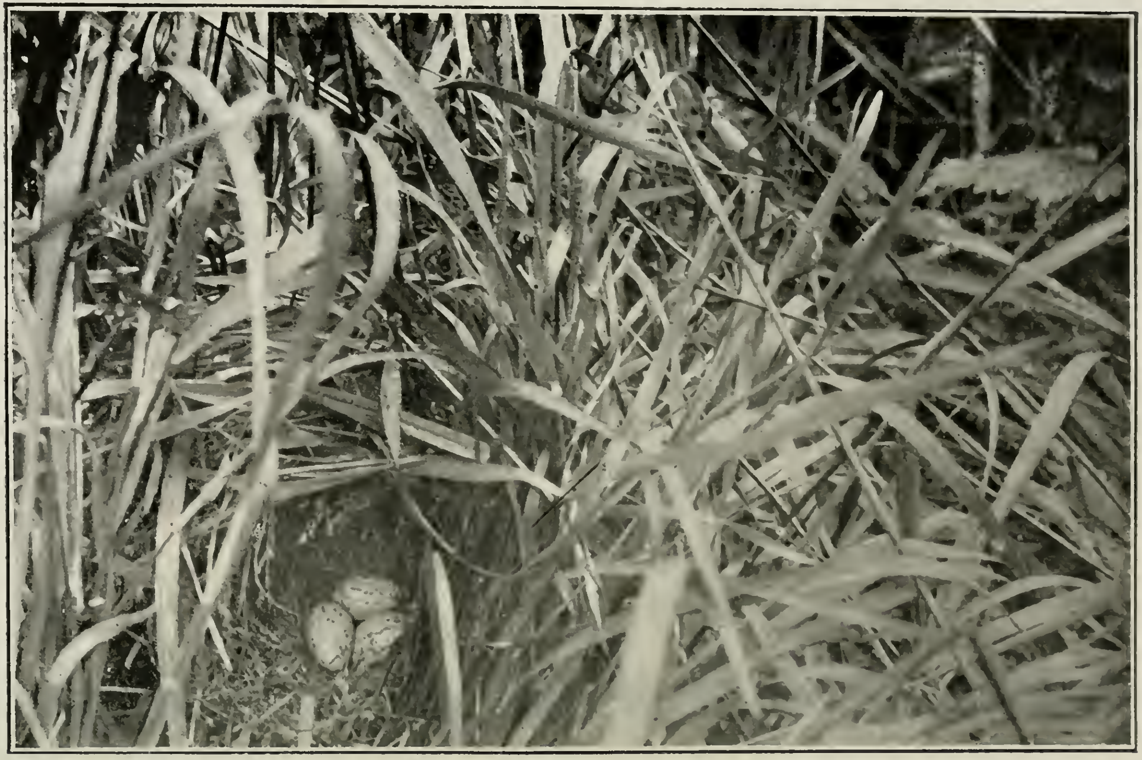


Photo W. Shore Baily.

Nest and Eggs of Jackson's Whydah.

clined to think that small ground insects were given them, but I cannot be certain of this. I have never seen the old birds taking insects on the wing as the Weavers do, and I do not think that they are quick enough to be able

Jackson's Whydah Dancing.

Photo W. Shore Baily.

to do so. The young left the nest when sixteen days old, and were like their mother, only slightly smaller. They continued to spend their time in the grass. The cock, as appears to be the custom with whydahs, took no part in the rearing of the little ones, but was always somewhere in the neighbourhood of the nest, where he acted both as sentinel and guard, his warning call enabling the hen to slip quickly out of the nest before anyone could get near enough to see her do so. By this time he had entirely discontinued displaying or using his playground. The first time I saw the young ones feeding was upon the seeding-grasses growing in the aviary, and of these they seemed very fond. They now visit the feeding trays with the other birds.

Jackson's Whydahs are the largest whydahs I have kept, and I have to-day Crimson-ringed, Red-collared, Red-shouldered, Queen, Paradise, and Pintail. They are also by far the most interesting and amusing, although all the whydahs make good aviary birds. I shall hope next year, if the young ones survive the winter, to let you know when they first come into colour.

[This is the first occasion on which Jackson's Whydah (*Drepanoplectes jacksoni*) has been bred in captivity and we congratulate Mr. Shore Baily on a notable success, which will entitle him to the Club's medal.—Ed.]

◆

Breeding Red-naped Lorikeets.

By E. J. Brook.

I have been asked to record my experiences of breeding Red-naped Lorikeets. Some nine or ten years since I obtained two of these birds, at that time a great rarity. They turned out to be both of the same sex, and on the death of one of them I discovered what they were and was fortunate enough to buy an odd bird, and so made up a pair. It was not long before the pair went to nest in a large box with a deep bed of peat and rotten wood. Two eggs were laid, both were fertile, and the young birds were reared to maturity. I fully believe that if I liked to go in for it, I could produce these birds in almost any quantity. They give no trouble whatever, are as hardy as Budgerigars and nearly as prolific.

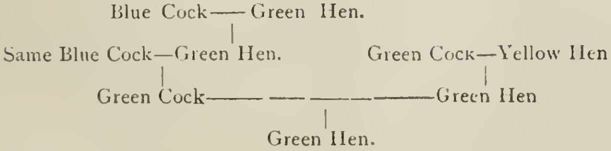
My Red-napeds are housed in a fair sized aviary with outdoor flight. They get one kind of food only, viz; the food I have often mentioned, composed of Marmite, Mellin's Food, and Horlick's milk, with a very small amount of sponge cake added. They also eat a considerable amount of the grass growing in the flight, especially while rearing young. I know I am going against all the pundits when I condemn milk sop, but I hate the stuff and have not used milk for years. If I buy a honey-eating bird of any kind that has been fed on milk I never feel comfortable about it, till I have had it long enough to be sure that its liver is not diseased. I go so far as to say that I would always give more for a honey-eating bird that had been imported on a nourishing liquid food, other than cow's milk, than I would give for one imported on the usual milk sop.

◆

Breeding blue Budergars.

BY J. W. MARSDEN.

In 1914 I bought a green hen from Mr. Pulsford of Paignton, bred as under:



3/8 Blue, 3/8 Green, 1/4 yellow.

I then picked out from a lot of Greens two cocks and one hen with as much blue and as pale in yellow as I could find. From the Blue-bred hen and one of these cocks I reared one hen (3/16 blue, 11/16 green, 1/8 yellow). From several reared by above other pair I picked out all that were bluest in nest feathers (I find from ordinary Greens some young are bluer in nest feathers than others, but they appear to moult the same).

In 1915 I paired the original 3/8 Blue-bred hen with one of the selected cocks—result 4 cocks (3/16 blue, 11/16 green, 1/8 yellow).

This spring I put into the aviary the 4 Cocks (3/16 blue), their half-sister (3/16 blue), their mother (7/8 blue), a Green hen (1/2 blue, 1/2 green), which I bought from Miss Clare, and a pale Yellow hen. The half sister and brother reared one very good Blue and one Green. A few weeks ago I bought another half Blue and half Green hen from Miss Clare, this bird was only hatched last January, thinking she was too young to breed I put her into the aviary. At the present time all 5 hens have young in the nest (so one of the cocks must have paired with two hens). As far as I can see to-day (some are too young to tell colour) there is another good Blue from half-sister and brother.

The aviary I built for these birds is facing north, sheltered by a wing of the house from the east, getting a little sun only in the evening. I feed them on 3½ parts canary seed, 3½ white millet, 2 hemp, and a little Provost oats mixed. When they are feeding young I give them scalded game or chicken meal, fruit, seeding grass, and in fact a little bit of almost anything they will eat.

I always keep a raw carrot impaled on a nail on the seed shelf.

[We shall be greatly obliged if Mr. Marsden will kindly report on the young Blues as soon as they have moulted out of the nesting plumage.—Ed.].

◆

The Endurance of Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

(*Continued from page* 102).

There is quite a gap between the last instalment, and now I cannot maintain proper sequence or any regular method in the list as some of my data are mislaid. I do not propose referring to British species in this list as, of course, they are in their native climate. All these records refer to birds out of doors all the year round. For the convenience of printing fractions of a year have been dropped.

Avadavat: Covering 12 pairs, kept between the years 1890 and 1913, the lives of the respective pairs being as follows: 6, 4, 3, 5, 7, 8;

2, 6, 6, 4, 5, 4 years; equalling an average life per pair of five years. One male was over ten years when it died and came into my possession in full colour.

Bengalese: I have found "egg-binding" rather common with these birds, materially shortening the life of the pairs, as my records with very few exceptions only cover pairs, and the survivor of a pair, would have his or her record commenced again, when a mate was found for it. Records of 20 pairs are: 2, 1, 8, 7, 7, 6; 6; 3; 3; 2; 4, 4, 4, 6, 5, 5; 3; 6; 4; 7 years respectively. Average 4 years. I have one record for a cock of this species of just over twelve years.

Blackbird. Red-winged: One pair only—with me two years, then cock escaped and hen was given her liberty six months later.

Black-headed Sibia: One pair only. I found them perfectly hardy, after they had been with me just over two years they were sold owing to a change of residence.

Budgerigar: I have several records of individual birds of over 10 years, but the mates of the respective pairs were not allowed to remain the same over a period of years, and consequently lives of pairs are not tabulated—except for losses from "egg-binding," mostly during abnormal weather periods, they are long lived, and stand the worst weather really well, providing their aviary is fairly roomy—I know of no species which so quickly suffers from the lack of wing exercise. I have not kept them for the past ten years, but intend renewing my acquaintance with them next season.

Bulbul, Red-eared: 2 pairs, 3 and 5 years respectively.

,, Himalayan Black: 1 male only—killed by a stray dog, which forced an entrance into the aviary, 18 months after I received it.

,, Red-vented: 12 pairs, 4 and 6 years respectively.

,, White-cheeked: Kept in my early days of aviculture when I did not keep records and their home out-door cages (very rough), the two I had lived several years.

,, White-eared: 1 pair, 3 years.

Bullfinch, Rosy-winged Afghan: 1 cock only, killed by a Black Tanager after being a year in the aviary—it passed through rather a wet winter out of doors without showing any ill effect.

Bunting, Black-headed: Average for 3 pairs 5 years.

,, Chinese: Came to me on outbreak of war from Capt. Reeves' aviary, where they had been for some time—still living—also kept them many years ago, but no records.

,, Hair-crested: Are severely tried by a wet cold season both as to summer and winter periods—out of several pairs kept during later years, all were sold, after from 1 to 3 years in aviary.

,, Indigo: 3 pairs and several odd cocks, two of the latter living 9 and 10 years respectively—average for the pairs 4 years.

,, Nonpareil: Many cocks, covering a long period, average life 7 years; 2 pairs lived 4 and 5 years respectively.

,, Rainbow: 1 cock lived 2 years—killed by a Snow Bunting.

,, Red-headed: 2 pairs—1 pair lived 3 years, and other pair was sold owing to change of residence, after being in my possession over two years.

CAPE CANARY: Had several pairs, but have only record of one pair, which lived 5 years, the cock of this pair only died in 1913, having lived in my aviaries over 11 years.

CARDINAL, GREEN: 1 pair only, which passed 4 years in my aviary, had bred for their previous owner. I sold them in 1910, cock still living, the hen died in 1915.

,, Pope: Have possessed many, mostly cocks—records cover six individuals—minimum and maximum periods, 5 and 8 years respectively, one of them (with me 8 years) I had known in a friend's aviary for over 5 years previously.

,, Red-crested: Records of 4 pairs, 3, 5, 6; and 4 years respectively, one of the cocks lived for 12 years and was in exhibition form when its body was picked up.

,, Virginian: Only had two true pairs, but many cocks, and in each case the hens were murdered by their mates, in their second and third seasons respectively. My present cock was presented to me by the late Mr. Tinniswood Miller, in 1911; I had known it in his possession for about 8 years, it is still living and very vigorous.

COCKATEEL: Have had many of these, mostly the progeny of two pairs, most of the young did not long remain in the aviary, one hen died from egg binding in her fourth year with me, the cock (her mate) was 10 years old when he met with a tragic end from the beak of a Quaker Parrakeet. The other pair were sold after being with me 5 years—they escaped from their new owner, and roamed about Chelsea at large for some months—their ultimate fate I do not know.

COMBASOU: I have had many of these, but very few records of them; they have been somewhat uncertain, very wet winters seeming to be fatal to this species—however, I have had more than one specimen live more than seven years with me.

(*To be continued*).

Pheasant Rearing Under Broodies.

BY G. E. RATTIGAN.

Concluded from page 195.

With apologies for this somewhat lengthy digression I will proceed with:

VENTURE No. 15.

Broody: Cross Silky and Belgian. Sitting 9 Common Pheasants.

1 addled.

8 hatched.

Subsequently lost two, one through a pig breaking into the field and overturning the coop! Remainder are now practically independent.

VENTURE No. 16.

Broody: White Silky. Sitting 8 Quail (purchased), 2 Kalige (my own. This was the other call made by the stoat referred to above:

He annexed on this occasion 4 Quail, and 1 Kalige. This broody, save for half an hour every morning, is completely shut in in a coop that fastens down with a flap in front.

She always comes off as soon as I leave after raising the flap and she very much resents the presence of anyone when off the nest, I always allow her half an hour or so to herself, and have always found her back on the nest on my return, so the stoat could not have wasted much time in getting to work!

This, with the exception of three broodies still incubating clutches of guinea fowls is my last venture and insomuch as I have already lost half the sitting, it at best cannot prove a very successful one. The eggs are due to hatch tomorrow (18th July)* So I will add a foot-note as to the result.

But apart from this lot the results of the season's work are as follow:

TABLE OF RESULTS.

Set.		Hatched.	Fully Reared
Golden Pheasants	67	21 or 22	12 or 13
Amherst	12	1 ?	1 ?
Silver	24	2	2
Kalige	17	—	—
Californian Quail	27	—	—
Common Pheasants	9	8	6

Apart from the above my pair Californian Quail hatched out 8 of 12 eggs, and all the remaining four eggs contained dead chicks almost due to hatch. I have also found more unhatched eggs in the nests of wild birds found round here than I can ever remember finding before.

---

*18th July.—Eggs have NOT hatched this morning!

To mention a few instances: An early nest of a Thrush contained 3 unhatched eggs, and one bird almost ready to leave the nest. Found Hedgesparrows' nest with 2 unhatched eggs, both addled.

Redstarts 1 infertile out of five left (1st clutch), and 2 out of four (second clutch), and later deserted young for no apparent reason when about 12 days old.

Several other nests of various species contained one or two addled or infertile eggs, in fact it was quite the exception to find any nest with a full clutch safely hatched.

To quote one more instance, my Black Tanager in her last clutch had one infertile egg and one with chick dead in shell out of the usual complement of 3 eggs.

The first eggs out of five or six clutches, which have even failed to hatch, though the fact that she is this season mated with one of last season's young may have something to do with the matter in her case.

Possibly this wretchedly cold summer may have impaired the vitality of the feathered tribes and thus have made them more prone to lay eggs either infertile or containing weakly germs.

No doubt, however, as far as my "sittings" were concerned, other causes, some of which I attribute to the following circumstances, contributed to my signal lack of success.

PROBABLE CAUSES OF FAILURE.

First and foremost I attribute the enormous percentage of chicks dead in shell to the fact that I originally commenced operations in a stable, which was much too stuffy and dry and had, as in most stables, a cobbled floor.

For the young chicks being crushed on emerging I was at first a good deal to blame, because instead of moving the broody to a coop the day "before" the hatch was due, I moved her the day "after." One or two chicks were lost through my not having a sufficiency of wire runs and in the case of the Quail five or six eggs were spoilt through dropping through the wire at the bottom of the sitting box. Therefore, as I mentioned before, if wire is used for this purpose it should be of a very fine mesh to avoid accidents of this nature. I think I also made the mistake at first of placing too many eggs under one hen.

I should say (though an expert could decide this point much better than I) that a dozen eggs is quite sufficient for a Silky or Silky Cross and fourteen or fifteen for one of the standard breeds of poultry, though if avoidable I should strongly advise anyone against using one of the latter for such delicate and fragile little objects as Pheasants, etc., as such birds are much too heavy and clumsy.

Of course a decent sized barn door hen will comfortably cover from twenty to four or five and twenty Pheasants' eggs, but in the first place I doubt very much whether she can properly turn so large a number and secondly even if she were successful in this, it is a practical certainty, that she would crush half of the chicks during the first few hours after hatching.

One more most important point, if you mean to try and rear a number of Pheasants, or anything else under broodies for that matter, *never* commence operations without a reliable incubator, or better still, both incubator and foster mother (artificial) in readiness for use in case of need. I wished a hundred times that I had had one or both.

Moreover, I am not at all sure that it would not prove an excellent plan to, on the day before the chicks are due to hatch, remove the eggs to an incubator, returning the chicks to the broody the following night, when they should be fairly strong on their legs.

But here again the practised "hand" could probably enlighten us from actual experience. My *menu* for newly hatched game birds is Spratt's "Banto" (a most excellent staple food by the way for any species of bird that will eat it, from Long-tailed Tits to Waders). Mixed with chopped egg and when obtainable live ant's eggs, plus a dish of small seed mixture as supplied to my aviaries, my experience being that they much prefer this to the standard "chick feeds."

I can guarantee that game bird chicks will do splendidly on the above diet without extras of any kind.

I have now taken up quite enough valuable space, so will conclude with the hope that some member, with much more knowledge and experience than myself, will throw more light on the points I have raised and also upon many more which doubtless have not occurred to me.

I have omitted to mention that—

I allow the broody off from 10 to 20 minutes according to the temperature obtaining.

That I had a few though not more than four or five eggs broken by the "broodies," and that, when such a catastrophe does occur, I always supply a fresh nest, first carefully cleansing each egg that may have been soiled (usually the lot be it said) with a rag dipped in warm water; and that I make it a practice to liberally dust both the broody and nest with some good insect powder both when incubation commences as well as again a few days after the eggs have hatched out, and that I have been singularly free from insect pests.

I should *most* strongly advise anyone who takes up Pheasants to buy their own breeding stock instead of purchasing "sittings" from strangers, but if eggs are purchased, be very careful from whom they are obtained!

◆

My Aviary Experiences.

By H. Carr Walker.

It is good of you, Mr. Editor, to ask me to give you some of my aviary experiences but I am afraid that much will be mere repetition, as I am a novice in aviculture.

I was in Australia from March to October, 1914, and, having an innate interest in birds and other wild life, became at once attracted by the wonderful variety of birds in Australia, and their peculiarities. A study of these at the Melbourne

Zoo, where the aviaries are truly fine, and also in the Bush in the wild state made me a keen aviculturist. The war, and munitions, with the necessity for being daily on the spot, has given me the opportunity for studying the few birds I keep.

I brought back in 1914, twelve pairs of finches, viz.: Cherry, Chestnut-breasted, Zebra, Parson, and Bicheno; these all travelled perfectly in a box-cage 24in. x 12in. x 12in.—all arriving in the best of condition. I kept them through the winter in a room heated by fire and hot water-pipes, and in spring put them outside into a 12 feet by 8 feet enclosed aviary, together with Saffron Finches, Redpolls, Whydahs, Indigo Buntings, Budgerigars, and other birds.

In May I added an open flight 14ft. x 6ft. x 6ft.

The summer of 1915 was disastrous, in so far as that the hens died of "egg-binding" in a wholesale manner. The only exception being the Saffrons, which reared young satisfactorily, but I had to part with them, as they were murderous towards all the smaller birds, even in an aviary of those dimensions.

Last winter, 1915, I heated the enclosed aviary inconsistently, and had a number of losses. In future I shall give no artificial heat whatever.

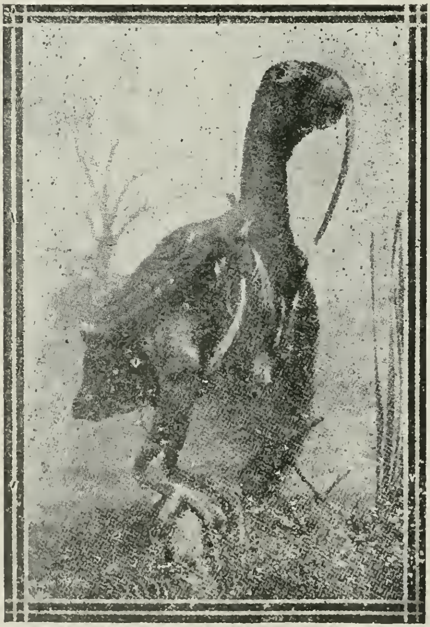
This spring the Ribbon and Zebra Finches nested and reared young without trouble, also the Budgerigars. I had nests of Redpolls and St. Helena Seed-eaters, and young were hatched out, a very fine Pintail Whydah, when he took on his summer plumage, played havoc with all open nests, eggs and young, before I found him out. In any except very spacious aviaries the mixing of the Serins is also very much against successful breeding, as they are so quarrelsome. In my opinion the Australian Finches are much more satisfactory, inasmuch as they can withstand any climate except an excessively damp one, and this much I have proved. My Chestnut-breasted Finches are and have always been in perfect condition, also Cherry and Zebra Finches—they have lived in a temperature of 70 degrees for days, and again, have had 70 degrees by day and 5 of frost the same night, and it never ruffled a feather; I do not know any other Finches that are able or could be expected to be able to stand this treatment.

This season I have been fortunate, so far in not having lost a hen through the egg trouble, and account for this by giving a plentiful supply of old crushed mortar and fresh green-food twice daily. I am also quite convinced that the change to a mixed seed dietary, which you were good enough to advise has been most beneficial, and during the moulting season the giving of as great a variety as possible gives a better tone to the plumage. A very fine Red-headed Gouldian hen has paired with a Red Weaver. Is it possible for those to mate satisfactorily ?

◆

Death of a Veteran Lemon-crested Cockatoo.

Reprinted from some unknown Australian Journal, with apologies to the Editor. Cutting sent by Mr. W. R. Colton.—Ed.



" Cocky Bennett."

The famous Cockatoo which recently died at Canterbury, aged 119. This is a record in longevity for an Australian Parrot so far as the official records are concerned. For many years the bird was in possession of Mrs. Sarah Bennett, the licensee of the Sea Breeze Hotel, at Tom Ugly's Point. When she left there, about 12 months ago, she transferred the Parrot to her nephew, Mr. Murdoch Alexander Wagschall, at Woolpack Hotel, Canterbury. The old bird was practically featherless for the last 20 years, but it maintained its "patter" till the day before its death. "Cocky Bennett" was a great traveller, and is said to have journeyed seven times round the world. Mr. Wagschall had the remains of this historic parrot preserved by a taxidermist and the result is seen in the illustration.

◆

Some Colony Birds.

Reprinted from "TIMEHRI" (The Journal of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana), May, 1915; with compliments and thanks to the Author and Editors.—Ed. "B.N."

(*Concluded from page* 210).

AMAZONS. Most of the parrots kept as pets in the Colony belong to one of the several species of Amazons indigenous to the country. But it would be unfair to judge of the tribe from most of the specimens one sees; ill-caged, wrongly-fed, ill-kept, teased and scolded, with feathers bedraggled and voices harsh, they are often neither beautiful, nor desirable as familiars.

As they are all green and all, more or less, the same size, they may easily be mistaken one for the other by those not skilled in bird-lore.

The commonest of all bears the unenviable local name of "Screecher," (*Amazona*, or *Chrysotis amazonica*). When properly cared for, the bird is not the objectionable party his name would suggest. All parrots screech to some extent, as the name, *Psittaci*, given to the whole order testifies. For the word is derived from a Greek verb which means, to call, or cry, and truly among the feathered multitudes there is no tribe or family that can express its feelings and sentiments so eloquently as parrots, nor do they hesitate to do so.

In size the amazons vary in individuals but speaking generally they are more or less the size of the African grey, being from twelve to fifteen inches in length. The feathers of these birds, when they are in good condition are hard and each one distinct, so that we might imagine them as clad in scaled armour. I suppose that a Darwinian would assure us that feathers are merely scales, as of reptiles, frayed out.

The Screecher then, if carefully brought up from youth, is a charming bird, though no great talker. It is affectionate and lively in disposition and in consequence is a general favourite. The whole body of the bird is grass-green; it has a yellow forehead, dome-shaped, and yellow cheeks and throat; the naked orbit of the eye is indigo blue and the yellow of the forehead is also edged with same colour. The iris is bright red and the beak horn-yellow merging into black at the edges and point. The wing when opened is a beautiful object, for the primaries are black with purple-blue edges and tips, and the secondaries orange, tipped with purple-blue; the bastard wing is yellow. When the wing is closed, only the ends of the purple-blue feathers are visible and a bar of orange. The tail, with the exception of the two middle feathers which are green, is orange, tipped with greenish yellow. When the bird cries, it opens out its tail and raises the feathers of the head in a pleasing manner.

THE CULU-CULU. The Culu-culu, *Amazona dufresniana*, differs from the Screecher in several important respects. When fully developed it is a larger bird and of a darker green. The cheeks are indigo-blue instead of yellow, and the crown of the head, merging at the cere into dark yellow, which broadens into a patch at the lore. The beak is red with dark edges; the iris, warm brown with an outer ring of red. The wings are marked much in the same way as the Screecher, but the middle, outer webs of the secondaries are orange-yellow, and the red of the tail scantier and hardly noticeable; the bastard wing is light green. It is a much rarer bird and is a better talker; for though the Screecher, if brought up from the nest, will learn a few words quicker, the Culu-culu will learn more. It is a shy bird and generally speaking will only be friendly to a few persons. It is also more sober in disposition and has none of the pretty ways ot the Screecher.

THE RED-BACK. A rarer bird still is the Red-back (*Amazona festiva*—the Amazon of festive attire). This bird is much smaller, being only eleven inches in length. It is a sage green with a crimson rump like the Red-back Mocking bird; its forehead also is red. The primaries are purple and black but the secondaries are a uniform cobalt green. The cheeks and throat are marked with blue, the beak horn-yellow. I have not yet made its personal acquaintance. I am told that it speaks distinctly and in a loud voice.

The Saurama. The Saurama Parrot is the largest of the Amazons. It is a rather gaunt bird, measuring from sixteen to seventeen inches in total length. It is not in such request as the Screecher, being slow, not to say dull and uninteresting. It may be taught to speak a few words and this it does distinctly, but the process requires time and patience.

It may easily be distinguished from the rest of the group by the broad circle of bare, white, skin around the eye, which, however, is not so extensive as that of the African Grey. The uniform green of the body is relieved by the line of purple-and-crimson of the wings and a yellow patch of indefinite and variable shape on the crown of the head. The wing feathers are the same as the Screecher except that the middle outer, webs of the secondaries are a beautiful crimson instead of orange. The tail feathers, which are somewhat longer in proportion than those of other Amazons, are green, fading into a light colour, and the outer feathers have sometimes an edging of light blue. The beak is horn-yellow, dark on the margins; the outer rim of the iris is red. The feathers of the nape and upper back have often a bluish tinge. There are some light crimson feathers on the bastard wing. I do not know why this Amazon should be called *farinosa*, that is *mealy*, except perhaps that it has, more than the others, a tendency to become spotted with yellow. The alternate generic name of *Chrysotis*, "golden," may reveal the same proclivity in the family generally. The species, *aestiva*, not found in this Colony, is sometimes seen in its wild state entirely yellow. Or it may be that in this species the powder-down patches are more in evidence.

The Amazon of Amazons. The King of all the Amazons is undoubtedly that species (*Amazona ochrocephala*) which is the only one of the genus known in England by the name of Amazon outside scientific circles. It is the Amazon par excellence.

Hardly inferior in size to the Saurama, it is handsomer in form and feather and withal very dignified in mien. He is no common dog that makes friends with everybody; but to his master or mistress he reveals a very intelligent and affectionate disposition, and will go to the length, parrot-wise, of endeavouring to feed the one on whom he bestows his affections, with food brought up from his crop. While one may appreciate the sentiment, one can hardly be expected to accommodate oneself to the mode of its expression.

This bird would almost answer to the description of the Saurama; but as I have already said, the feathers are trimmer, and the shape of the bird more graceful. The following points must also be noted: the yellow of the forehead, of a definite, mitre shape, is of a richer hue, and extends to the cere; the beak is red; the purple blue of the wings is more prominent; the rectrices or tail feathers have at their base an inner web of crimson; and while the bastard wing is light green, there is on the shoulders of the wings a prominent patch of crimson; the green of the body is lighter and brighter. There is only a narrow circle of bare white skin around the eye.

I do not know why this species should be called *ochrocephala* (yellow-head) for there is less yellow on the head than on the head of the Screecher. It is one of those many anomalies in scientific nomenclature that shews these names are to be regarded, more or less, as mere labels.

All these parrots make their nests high in the holes of trees. Generally, a partly decayed tree is chosen and the hole whittled out by their powerful beaks. They pair for life; and though they fly in flocks to the feeding grounds, always maintain their couples. At night or in the morning they may be seen and heard as they return to their roosting place or go forth to feed, flying high on laboured wing and screeching as they fly; the couples keeping as close together as if linked like chain-shot. If required as pets they should be obtained young. The Indians catch great numbers of these birds by stupefying them with smoke as they roost at night. These never become tame. Again, the bird may be domesticated, but may have incorrigibly bad habits, or he may have been underfed. A male bird should be chosen, for not only is he a much finer bird, but has a more equable temperament. Females may be better talkers, but in these birds the dictum of Rudyard Kipling is exemplified.

"The female of the species is more dangerous than the male."

[Below we give English equivalents for the names used in this article, covering instalments in July, August and present issues.—ED. "B.N."

The Lovebird=Guiana Lovebird.
White-breasted Parrot=Black-headed Caique.
The Screecher=King Amazon Parrot.
Culu-culu=Dufresne's Amazon Parrot.
Red-backed Parrot=Festive Amazon Parrot.
Saurama Parrot=Mealy Amazon Parrot.
The Amazon of Amazons=Yellow-fronted Amazon Parrot.

◆

Some British Birds in my Aviaries.

BY W. SHORE BAILY.

Living as I do in the heart of the country, there is no inducement to keep many of our English birds in my aviaries, as there are plenty of opportunities to study most of the commoner, and not a few of the rarer species, without going very far from my doorstep. There are however, two kinds that I have kept for sometime, one the Fieldfare, which only visits this district in hard weather, and the other the Bearded Tit, a bird which I believe is unknown in this county (Wilts.). I have for two or three years wanted to breed both these species.

The Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*, Linn.), I believe, has not bred in captivity, but I cannot see any reason why it should not do so. The principal difficulty is, I suspect, to get a true pair, as the sexes are alike. My first pair were very fine birds, but were, I think, two cocks, as they were always quarreling and made no attempt to nest. This year I parted with one of them, and got another from a dealer, which was supposed to be a hen and I believe, rightly so. She in a miserably dirty condition, when she arrived, its tail and half her flight feathers were gone, and altogether she looked most disreputable. However, she had one very good point, she was tame and would feed from the hand; rather unusual with such a shy species. I am glad to say that although she now has her freedom in a very large aviary, she will still come when called. So far they have made no attempt at nesting, probably because the hen was so badly out of condition, but I hope that next year they will make up their minds to do so.

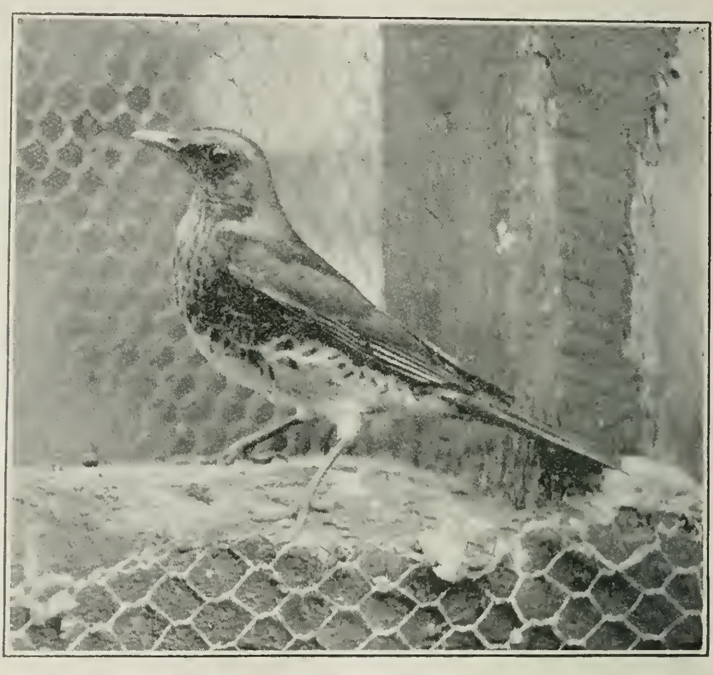


Photo W. Shore Baily.

Fieldfare ♂

These birds nest very late in the year in Norway. I remember finding, at end of August, a nest of young ones in a spruce at Frondheim, when on a yachting cruise there some some years ago. I took a photo of the nest, but the light was not good, and the resultant picture not good enough for "B.N." These and the Hooded Crows were about the commonest birds I saw in Norway. Some day, when I have time, if our Editor is short of copy for "B.N." I must send a few notes of some of the birds seen on the trip, which extended through Lapland, past Spitzbergen, and as far north as the polar ice pack.

With the Bearded Tits (*Panurus biarmicus*. Linn.) I have at last been successful, and two young ones are being reared this season. The first pair I turned out met with ill luck, the hen dying egg-bound. I was lucky to get another from Mr. Frostick, who warned me not to give mealworms to these birds. I had always been in the habit of giving mine one or two daily. Mr. Frostick's advice was very opportune, as just about this time mealworms became unprocurable, so what live food they had, they owed to their own exertions. Early in July the hen built a nest in a box in the shelter. I can't give the incubation period, as at this time I was away from home a good deal, but on examining the nest during an interval in my holiday, I found two strong young birds and two addled eggs. On visiting them again ten days later I found that the hen, disgusted probably with the interference of my last visit had built a neat cup-shaped nest in another corner of the shelter, and had somehow installed her young ones therein. Both birds were well feathered, but neither could

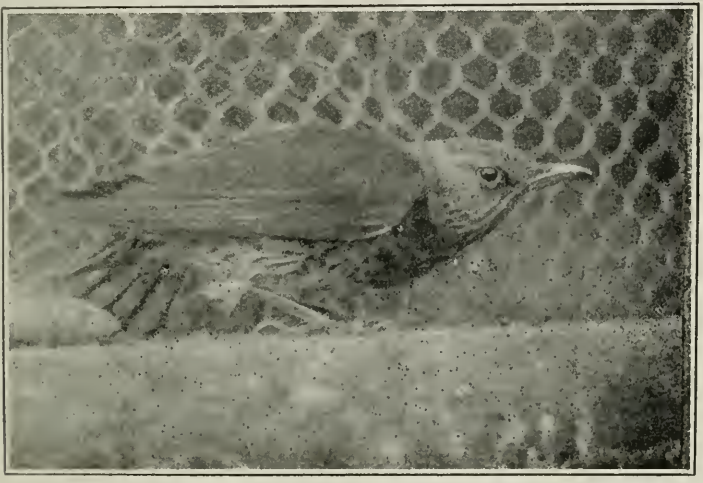


Photo W. Shore Baily.

Hen Fieldfare Prepared to Attack.

fly, and I should very much like to know how she succeeded in getting them to change their quarters. A week later, they were quite strong on the wing, and now a disaster occurred. Annoyed by my efforts to secure a photo of them, a very difficult operation by the way, they both slipped through the three-quarter inch mesh netting and escaped. One I recaptured, but the other probably perished, as it wasn't capable of fully providing for itself. The survivor lived another week or so, when it met its doom in the fangs of a young rat, which managed to squeeze its way into the aviary. The murderer was promptly executed with high explosive, in the shape of a charge of No. 6 shot. I was very much surprised to find that any bird could get through three-quarter inch netting, but I have since found that the Common and Willow Wrens can easily do so*.

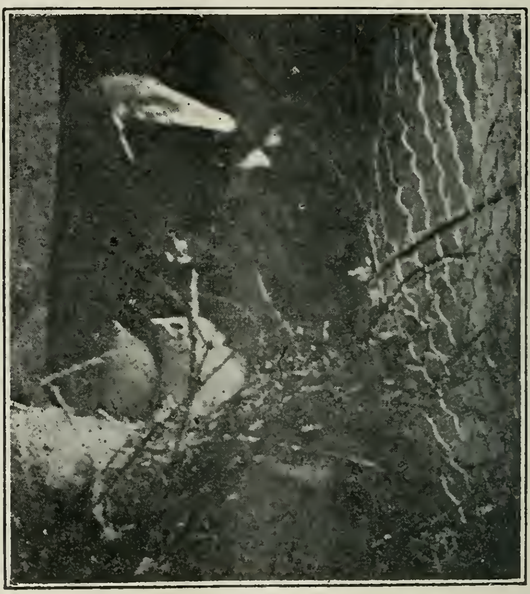


Photo W. Shore Baily.

Bearded Tits in Nest.

In this connection I have just had another unpleasant surprise, three rare Gallenules having escaped from an enclosure covered with two inch mesh netting, and, of course, with no possible chance of recovery.

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*So also can Avadavats and most of the Waxbills.—Ed.

One other British bird I have just added to my collection, and that is the Nuthatch (*Sitta caesia, Wolf*), a pair of which were kindly offered me by one of our lady members.

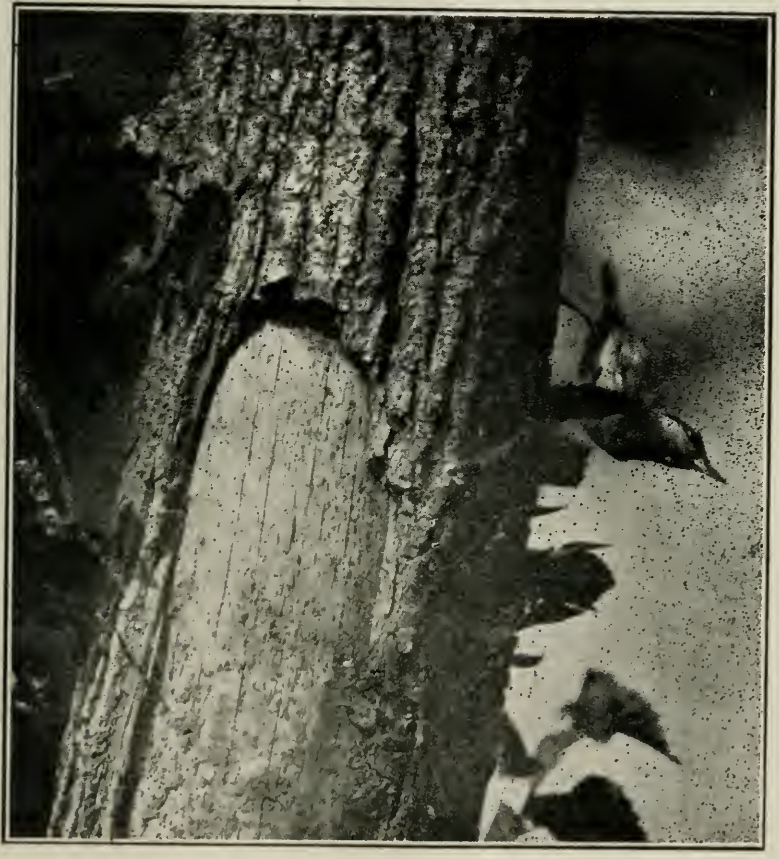

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Nuthatch Walking Head Downwards.

I find them most interesting as aviary birds and, I think, it is extremely likely that they will breed if they survive the winter.

For many years I have had a pair of these birds in the trees around my home, but this year they are absent. I have always found it very difficult to observe them, as they seem to like to keep the body of the tree between them and the observer. In the aviary it is different as one or the other nearly always on view, and very pretty they look walking down the tree stems head downwards, or darting across the aviary with their Kingfisher-like flight. I do not think there is a hole or corner which they have not explored. I notice that they are storing nuts and sunflower seeds in some of the coco-nut husks, put up for the other birds to nest in. One or two other Britishers I have had enter the aviary of their own free will. A Common Wren has occupied a series of five aviaries since last March. It easily finds its way from aviary to aviary, but cannot find its way out. This morning a Kingfisher was fishing in the pond of the Waders' aviary; a beautiful and handsome visitor.

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Correspondence.

TRYING FOR BLUE BUDGERIGARS

Sir,—I have much enjoyed the article "History of the Budgerigar," by Dr. Hopkinson, and I enclose several letters from which you may care to take a few extracts. [These letters have a distinct bearing on former communications to "Bird Notes," viz.: 1913, page 30, and 1914, page 62. Ed.]. Mr. Pulsford is the "Devon Aviculturist" referred to by Dr. Hopkinson on page 203 of our last issue. The two pairs referred to in the following letter, brothers and sisters to my birds, were bred:

Blue Cock —Green Hen
|
Same Blue Cock -- Green Hen. Green Cock—Yellow Hen
| |
Green Cock ———————— ——Green Hen
|
2 Cocks and 3 Hens all green.

"My luck with the Green Budgerigars bred from Blues has been rather
"bad. I had two pairs (brothers and sisters to yours), also one cock
"bred from Blue cock and Yellow hen; one of the hens was killed by an
"Adelaide Parrakeet, leaving me with a pair and two odd cocks. The
"pair bred, one very rough and cold January, three Blues, two all
"right and one deformed; the deformed one soon died, and another got
"between a box and the wall and died there as it could not extricate
"itself, the survivor was a fine bird, and a lovely colour, but it stayed
"out one cold, wet night, caught pneumonia and succumbed thereto. The

“ next nest produced one Green and one Blue, but the latter died before leaving the nest. This was followed by another brood of three Green hens; so the end of the season found me with the old pair, two old cocks and three young hens. I paired them, the old hen killed one of the young hens, and her mate pined away, evidently the old hen was injured in the fight with the young one, as she only laid two eggs, one malformed and the other clear, and she has not laid since. One young hen mated with the cock (Blue and Yellow) produced two Blues and one Green. Just before this a rat got into the aviaries and was so artful that I could not catch it, and although I had men, dogs, traps, and poison it was three weeks before the end came, and before this came about it had accounted for the two Blues and many others, including a Rosella Parrakeet. The next resulted in the rearing of one Blue and one Green (both living), the Blue a fine hen; then followed another nest of all Greens. The other young hen mated with the old cock, laid and sat for a month before young hatched, and only one Green was reared. I then paired her with a Green cock (Green and Yellow bred), result two youngsters, one strong the other weakly. I have now seven pairs (do not want to part with any). With moderate luck I ought to breed several Blues this year, but fear I shall not be able to give as much time to the birds as I should like.—A. Pulsford, February, 22nd, 1916.”

“ In reply to yours I cannot give results at present—I have three nests just hatched but cannot tell what colour they will be.—A. Pulsford, Aug. 22, 1916.”

“ I have no young Budgerigars bred from Blue and Green. I have only two Blues left, and they are mated to Green, but what prospect of getting any young, I cannot say yet.—W. R. Fasey, March 27, 1916.”

“ I am glad to hear that you are trying to breed Blue Budgerigars. I, myself, have not been successful, and as I am going back to India in October, I have parted with all my birds and aviaries. The darkened birdroom, in which I was trying my experiment was too dry. I have bred many dozens, I think I may say hundreds, of Budgerigars, and I have found that damp is essential to successful breeding. It is difficult to get moist air in a birdroom, but I think a good place would be a large shed, under trees in a damp place in a garden: on bright days darkened screens, or blinds of red cloth might with advantage be placed over the windows. For many years, in India, I noticed that eggs laid in hot weather, by many different species of birds, before the rains burst were very small and rarely fertile. After the burst of the rains, the same pairs laid eggs four times as heavy as those laid in the hot dry weather, and nearly all were fertile. My Budgerigars did best during rainy springs and autumns, and those in their third and fourth year were the most productive. Both the Blue and the White Budgerigars are bound to come in the near future just as surely as the White canary has come, and I "hope you may have a share in successful experimenting. I rather "fancy that grass and groundsel help to retain the green in the "colouration, and I tried to substitute as greenfood the more bleached "varieties of lettuce, such as the drumhead.—J. M. Paterson, Aug. 19, "1914."

I hope you may find something of general interest in the enclosed etters which, please return, for "B.N." readers.

Harrogate, Aug. 27th, 1916. J. W. MARSDEN.

[We are much indebted to Mr. Marsden for sending such interesting etters and tender best thanks to the writers of them, and should be lad to receive their latest results.—Ed].

BREEDING MANY-COLOUR, AND STANLEY PARRAKEETS.

Sir,—It is not necessary for me to repeat details of treatment as hese were fully given last year, but I am glad to be able to report that ny pair of Many-colours, have successfully reared four very fine young ones, which are quite independent and strong on the wing. The Stanleys have also fully reared three, which are now strong on the wing and in beautiful feather. This year for some reason the hen Stanley did very ittle feeding after her babies were a week old, possibly she may have gone off form a little; the cock, however, did his part so well that the young were all reared, and certainly they have never reared finer young han the trio referred to above.

Kendal: August 7, 1916. J. SMITH.

◆

Post Mortem Reports.

Canary.—(A. H. Scott, Liphook, Hants). The cause of the cock Canary's death was acute pneumonia.

Miss Johnson, Orr, Hastings. The cause of death of the two birds sent was fatty degeneration of the heart and liver. In-breeding is likely to predispose birds to "French moult." Breeding boxes, husks, etc., should be creosoted at least once a year, even if not renewed.

Answered by post:—James Yealland; Miss Sturton Johnson.

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

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The History of the Budgerigar.

Errata: Re page 151, June issue. In this instalment the footnote has got mixed up with the text, making it read incoherently.

We apologise for the error, also for the irregular manner in which the article was broken up into instalments. We are only partly to blame, our hands were forced, mostly by shortness of copy and not being able always to wait for the mail bringing Dr. Hopkinson's revisions. The "times" also are very difficult for the printers, and it is impossible to avoid rushing things at times and in this way errors creep in. We will reprint the portion referred to in a later issue, so as to clear up the incoherence.—Ed.

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Red-collared Whydah Feeding Young *on* Nest.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Breeding of a Hybrid Crimson-crowned Weaver X Red-collared Whydah.

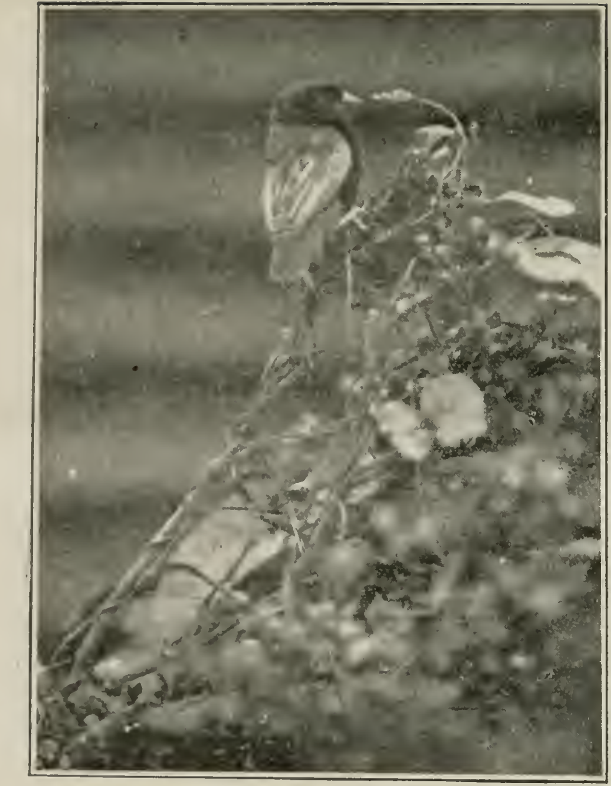
BY W. SHORE BAILY.

Last September I was able to send you an account of the rearing of two Red-collared Whydahs in one of my aviaries. This year in the same enclosure I have succeeded in rearing a young hybrid from a Crimson-crowned Weaver cock, and my old Red-collared Whydah hen. The little hybrid should make a very handsome bird if it lives to obtain full breeding plumage, which I hope that it may do.

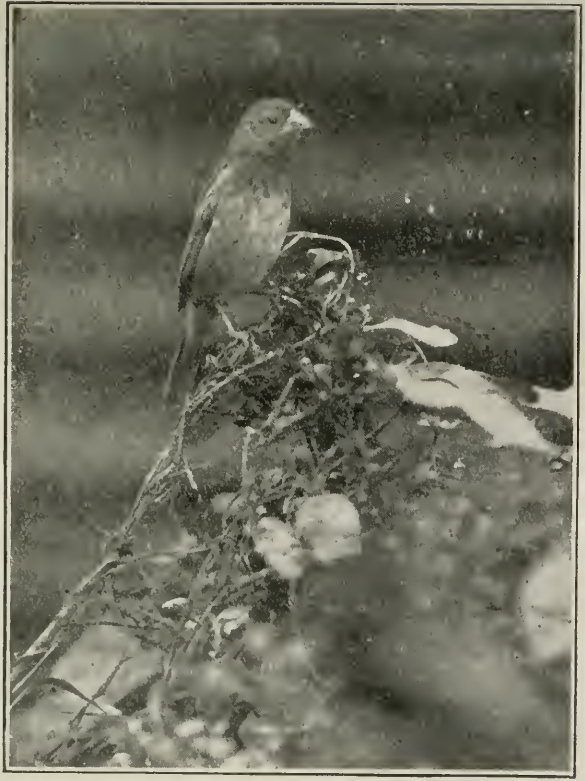
It was the first week in May and in rather cold weather, that I turned into the aviary two cock Crimson Crowned Weavers, an Orange Weaver cock, Red-shouldered Whydah Cock, and my young Red-collared Whydah cock, and with them hens Red-collared and Red-shouldered Whydahs and Crimson-crowned Weaver. The other occupants of the aviary were pairs of Yellow Weavers, Bronze-wing and Diamond Doves, Zebra Finches, Black-cheeked Lovebirds, and an odd, male Blue-winged Lovebird. The aviary being a large one, they were by no means overcrowded, and did not take long to settle down. Nothing much happened for the first two months, except the rearing of young Diamond and Bronze-wing Doves, but towards the end of July I found the deserted nest of the Red-shouldered Whydah, containing eggs of both Whydahs. The Red-collared hen had evidently driven away the smaller bird. I gathered from this that the Red-collared Whydah hen, does not build her own nest, but depends on the cock doing so, as is the case with the Weavers. My young Red-collar cock was too much bullied by the other birds at this time to have any inclination for nest building, although he has since built several of a somewhat rough description.

I was away on holiday the first two weeks of August, and lost the chance of seeing what was going on during that time, but on my return I found that both the Whydah hens were incubating, the Red-collared in a highly woven and rather deep cup-shaped nest, attached to the stems of some tall horse-radish, well concealed. The nest was tilted to one side, so that it was protected to a certain extent from rain, but I made doubly sure by having a sheet of iron placed on top of the netting. The nest was a totally different structure, from the one in which she reared young last year, that being a very loosely constructed dome-shaped affair. The two eggs were bluish green, thickly speckled with brown, with a ring of denser spots at the larger end. From the situation of the nest, which was in what might be called the sphere of influence of the Crimson-crowned Weaver cock, I had my doubts from the first as to whether the young Red-collar had had anything to do with its construction, more especially as he would have had to cross the territory of his bitter enemy, the Red-shouldered Whydah, a thing he was very loth to do. On testing the eggs of both Whydahs a week after my return, I found that each set of eggs was fertile, and the question now arose as to what live-food I should be able to give parents in the event of the eggs hatching out. Wasp grubs were unobtainable in our neighbourhood, a very curious thing, as there had been plenty of queen wasps in evidence in the spring, and young wasps are generally far too plentiful with us in the fruit season. Last year my man dug out three or four nests every day during August and the beginning of September: this year he hasn't found one. Mealworms it was impossible to get from the dealers, so I decided to try gentles, although I had heard a bad report of these from various quarters. On scattering some of these rather disgusting grubs on the feeding table, I saw the Crimson-crowned Weaver carrying one to the Red-collared Whydah on the nest, thus proving that he was her husband, for the time being at any rate. A few days later two young ones were hatched, I cannot give the exact period of incubation, but

Photo W. Shore Baily.



Crimson-crowned Weaver (♂).



Red-collared Whydah (♂), 12 months old.

Photos by W. Shore Baily.

I should say about twelve days. The hen as usual did all the work about the house, the cock merely keeping other birds at a distance which he did very effectively. I supplied the gentles rather sparingly at first, fearing their effect on the very young birds, but these for the first ten days were the only live food supplied; after that, I was able to get a few mealworms from a neighbouring miller's man, and these she at once took in preference. But I may say right here that I believe she would have succeeded in rearing her young without the assistance of mealworms or other live-food. Other foods that she used were bread and milk, canary or millet. From the time I supplied mealworms, the growth of the young birds was rapid.

When fourteen days old the first one left the nest and I was able to get one or two photos of the hen feeding it on the top of its late home. The next day the hen enticed it to the shelter of a large laurel bush, where for seven days, some of which were frightfully cold and wet, it was quite invisible. The second bird remained in the nest three days longer, and left it only to perish from an early frost. Both birds showed the buff eyebrow-streak, common to so many species of Weavers when out of colour, and in shape much more nearly resembled the Crimson-crowned Weaver than they did their mother. The death of the second young one allowed the mother to pay much more attention to her first-born, and she proved a perfect little feeding machine, taking in mealworms and gentles to the laurel bush as fast as I liked to give them to her, which, as the weather was bad, was fairly often. When the young one was three weeks old I saw it for the first time flying after its mother. She now gave it mealworms without first swallowing them herself. At the time of writing it has grown into quite a nice bird, and is, I should say, a male. It is altogether a stouter and bigger bird than the hen.

I hope that in two years time or sooner I may be able to describe its breeding plumage.

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Red-collared Whydah Hen Feeding Young *in* Nest.

Bakloh Aviary Notes.

By Major Perreau, F.Z.S.

Part I.—I have been away from Bakloh except short spells since October 1914. In February 1916 I was there recruiting from a bad go of malaria when the Regiment in Kohat got orders to mobilise for Mesopotamia. Of course I dashed back at once, but the Kohat doctors were obdurate, and gave me no hope of going out till say October or November, if then. Thus was I left with the Depot to return to Bakloh our own permanent station in the hills. We arrived there 11th March and though our own doctor played up for me (having known me nearly all my service) I had little hopes of getting out before September I determined to try and breed a few Indian birds. However, to my great joy and surprise our doctor had hardly expected so rapid a response— to his report on me, on 19th April I got my orders to go and I left with a draft on 24th.

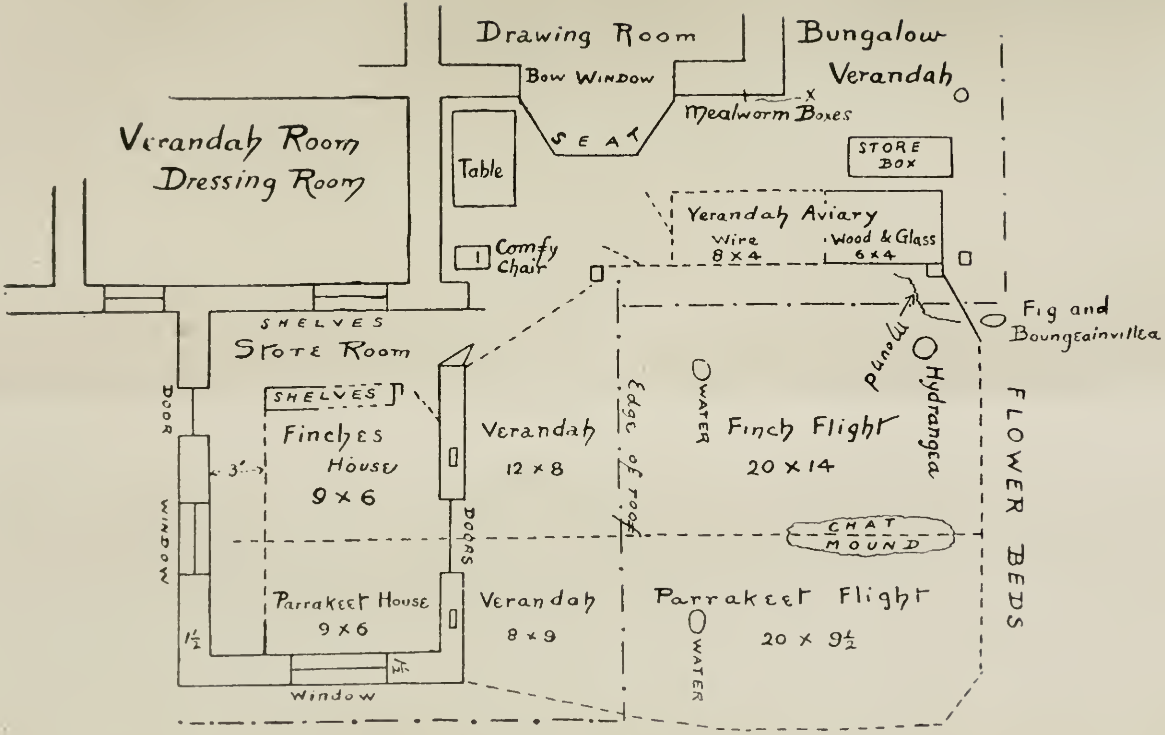
While in Kohat I had left a few birds in charge of a pensioned Gurkha sepoy ("ineligible"), whom my servants call bird orderly. I had also caught a few birds, most of which I let go on departure. When I left my wife took over charge of the bird orderly—Dila Ram by name. Gurkhas (of W. Nepal at any rate) do not make good bird men, the work is too light and requires too much thinking, also as a rule the pensioner who remains in British territory is not the best.

In a very short time my wife had taken almost entire charge of the birds, and in my opinion she has had a most successful season. Of course, she knows more than she pretends to, and has often given me invaluable help, but she has never had birds on her own before, except for short spells at a time, and those were seed-eaters. Out of the few pairs in the aviaries two species have successfully reared young and another got as far as feeding young for ten days. She has sent me copious notes in her letters, and also kept a rough diary, which I have now with me. I suppose I ought to write a separate account of the doings of each species and this I tried to do, but it seemed to cut up her notes so much, and I have myself got so much pleasure from reading and re-reading the notes (copied into a book) that, I venture to hope our members will be intrested in them as originally written, with a few notes by myself. I therefore propose to write these aviary notes in four parts: Part I., notes to date of my departure, by myself; Part II. and III., notes by my wife, including nesting and rearing; Part IV., notes on the birds in a wild state, &c., by myself.

My new aviaries, though erected in 1909, have been little used and badly want repair. My old ones, built in 1903 are far more convenient and the few birds I've kept recently have been housed in them, but they have been practically empty since early 1913. They want cleaning and tidying up badly, old nests require pulling out of boxes, both Parrakeet and Finch, and they rather present the look of a lumber room with boxes and cages stacked in places, but they are useful aviaries, well furnished with pea sticks and artificial perches and nesting boxes of very varied shapes and sizes.

The aviary consists of a stone house with 8ft. verandah, both iron sheet over plank roofing, with 20ft. open flight to south. This house runs gablewise into the west verandah of our bungalow. The house is 12ft. by 18ft., but 3ft. at the back is taken up by two aviary cages, one over the other 14ft. by 3ft. and 4ft. at the end near the bungalow is used as a store room. It is divided into two aviaries, rough measurements as follow: Near or Finch Aviary.—House 9ft. by 8ft., verandah 8ft. by nearly 12ft., flight 20ft. by about 14ft., the east side having nearly 2ft. of eaves of the bungalow. Far or Parrakeet aviary.—House 9ft. by 6ft., verandah 8ft. by 7ft. 6in. to 8ft., flight 20ft. by 8ft: to 9ft: At the S.W. corner of the bungalow verandah is the verandah aviary 14ft. by 4ft. wide by 6ft. high, of which for 6ft. is glass and wood, covered with blanket and tarpaulin, quite a useful little aviary it has been; remaining 8ft. is open wire. All wire is half-inch mesh, strong galvanised netting.

Finches and Parrakeets having been absent so long


Drawing Room
Bungalow Verandah
Bow Window
Seat
Mealworm Boxes
Store Box
Verandah Room
Dressing Room
Table
Comfy Chair
Verandah Aviary
Wire 8 × 4
Wood & Glass 6 × 4
Fig and Boungeainvillea
Mound
Hydrangea
Shelves
Store Room
Shelves
Door
Finches House 9 × 6
3'
Window
Verandah 12 × 8
Edge of roof
Water
Finch Flight 20 × 14
Chat Mound
Flower Beds
Doors
Parrakeet House 9 × 6
1½
1½
Window
Verandah 8 × 9
Parrakeet Flight 20 × 9½
Water

Ground Plan, Major Perreau's Bakloh Aviaries.

there is a nice crop of grass and weeds in the flight, in other parts floor is flagged. Outside near aviary Light at the corner of the bungalow is a bougainvillea and a fig tree, the twigs of the latter I try to train through the wire in early spring, but the mali in my absence invariably prunes off these twigs and I have to content myself with a few later trained twigs. A fig tree inside would either die or lift the roof off when one was away. Inside (the same corner), I have put in a large hydrangea bush in a tub. Then I have built up some low mounds with artificial holes for Chats, Rock Thrushes, &c., with stones, earth and grass. These my wife in the feminine intuitive way calls "quail dug-outs," they are not dug out and I have no quail but still there you are, they "look like" (as Mark Twain's Eve puts it) quail dug-outs. Anyhow, my tame chats refuse to use them, preferring an unnatural Parrakeet box and I have known wild Chats use far inferior artificial sites by the same artist in the compound. I suppose I shall have to get some Quail when I get back, I'll bet that, unsuitable for Quail as they are, they will be snapped up at once.

Water is given in flight twice a day in large shallow iron pans. Food is placed under cover in dishes, standing inside larger dishes, in different parts. Food consists of dry cake, insect mixture, and live food, chiefly mealworms and wild things when procurable and sometimes maggots and (when I had my old mali) earthworms; fruits when procurable. Flying white ants when procurable are good and dried ones are also good, but one is able to get them in such small quantities. There seem to be millions, but collecting them in thousands, or even hundreds is different; they do not come out at night with us or the lamp on a brick in a basin of water would do the trick. When I feel energetic enough to polish up some rough letters I've started, I hope to lay the seeds of a business where I shall be able to buy dried termites and also silkworm pupae. This lamp game and net sweeping provide a fair amount of live food at certain seasons. thoroughly dried, sun or oven, and kept in dry place in airtight receptacles. Those jam jars with screw lid, inner lid and rubber washer are "it." I've had dried white ants (termites-flying), for over two years in such a jar and these were only greasy dried, as they should be. The common blackbeetle of the kitchen dries very well (dry real hard), and responds very well to hot water when wanted.

I seem to be rather off the lines but foods are my particular hobby. My own mixture at present is one part each, in bulk, flies, ants' eggs and crissel, to two parts biscuit made crumbly moist and then hard boiled egg lightly mixed in, one egg to say ten to sixteen birds.

Now having cackled, lets get to the losses. On arrival in Bakloh on 11th March I found in the Finch aviary 1 cock Blue-headed Rock Thrush, 1 cock Blue Chat, 1 cock Red-billed (Wren), Babbler, all these (with spouses since departed) were caught in September, 1914; 1 pair Tailor Birds, and 4 Crested Black Tits caught in December, 1913. Bar one Tit all very fit. To these I added and did not let go 1 hen Tit Babbler (it's no good both my wife and self have got into misnaming the Red-billed Babbler, they are more like Tits than Wrens, so I give up trying to name them correctly) on March 12th (smart catching this), one hen Rock Thrush; on April 12th, both in Finch Aviary. Also added and placed in Fat Aviary 1 pair Pied Bush Chats (domestic Pied Chat) on 18th and 22nd March, and 1 pair Tit Babblers on 13th March. In verandah aviary 1 cock Paradise Flycatcher on 6th April.

My notes till I left are as follow:

RED-BILLED BABBLERS. Cock started feeding hen while the latter was still in the meating off cage, and hen was soon let out and cock then started carrying grass and leaves, and courting commenced, no special display bar tickling in true babbler style, hen quiescent, but helped in latter stages of nest that cock was building in a half covered Lipton's tea tin, about 6½ft. from ground under the eaves of the bungalow. Nest practically finished on 19th April, domed, made of coarse grass and leaves, and lined with fibre. On 23rd there were 3 eggs, rather large for size of bird, white with rather large pale rusty splashes at big end.

Rather think other pair may start soon, too.

CRESTED BLACK TITS (*L. melanolophus*). One certain pair, cock very amorous, has a pretty way of lifting and fluttering the off wing, chivies her considerably, hen not responsive.

TAILOR BIRDS (*Orthotomus sutorius*) nested in early August, 1911, in two fig leaves, the eggs were fertile but eaten by mice. The cock was very amorous and noisy, chivying the hen a great deal, she seemed rather struck with an outside bird; the cock did a little sewing in the very few fig leaves.

BLUE-HEADED ROCK THRUSHES (*Petrophila cinclorhyncha*), the cock was very amorous, and showed off continually, but the hen was really hardly meated off in the way I like when I put her in the aviary prior to departure. Summer visitors were very late this year.

INDIAN BLUE CHAT (*Larvivora brunnea*) cock very fit but hens had not arrived when I left, worse luck.

INDIAN PIED BUSH-CHATS (*Pratincola caprata*). The first pair of the year were both caught in the same tree by double spring net trap almost on arrival. From my chair near the aviary I saw both go for the mealworm at the same time. As a rule when this happens one gets hurt, and this may have happened in this case as the hen succumbed in a few days, though apparently feeding well. I got another hen and and took particular care with her before letting her loose. They were settling down nicely when I left, the cock doing a modification of his butterfly courting flight. For the first time I really wished my aviaries were higher.

PARADISE FLYCATCHER (*Tersephone paradisi*) got its wing hurt in a tree trap (an exceedingly rare occurrence) and so was kept. It was an adult cock with quite a short white tail. Before I left his tail had grown tremendously and his wing was nearly all right and he seemed to be feeding well, not only on live insects but on cut up mealworms, dried termites (for certain) and insect food made strong and rather wet and allowed to dry lumpy.

From here my wife takes up the tale.

(*To be continued*).

Breeding Results in my Aviaries.

BY LAURENCE PULLAR, F.Z.S. (about 13 years old).

A brief account of my failures and successes has already appeared in "B.N." but, I think, this more detailed article may be of interest.

My aviaries were described in last vol. of "B.N." so I will not refer to these again.

I am afraid my results are really nothing to write about, but they have been most interesting to me, so I hope they will be equally so to some other member.

QUAKER PARRAKEETS: My pair of these interesting birds made a big nest in a high corner of the aviary. Four eggs were deposited therein by the hen, three of which duly hatched out, the fourth disappearing mysteriously. The three young birds were all fully reared, but one unfortunately escaped a few weeks ago.

On looking into the nest to-day (September 22nd), I found three more eggs, so, I think, I may get a few more young Quakers yet.

RING-NECK PARRAKEETS: I procured a pair of these beautiful Parrakeets last spring, and they laid two clutches of eggs, which were, unfortunately, infertile in both cases.

COCKATEELS: These laid but one egg, which they did not attempt to incubate.

CALIFORNIAN QUAIL: I have a pair of these, sixteen eggs were laid, which were put under a Buff Orpington, but only three hatched out, and these were trampled on by the hen, who was of too large and heavy a variety.

GOLDEN PHEASANTS: These were an absolute failure, all their eggs being infertile. I think they must be too closely related and must get another cock to introduce fresh blood.

WILD DUCK: I obtained a pair of these last autumn which made, this spring, a nest in a dark corner of their aviary and successfully reared four ducklings.

STOCK AND TURTLE DOVES: These also were a failure for some reason, they usually do well.

In conclusion, I should like to say I think "Bird Notes" is a splendid magazine. I wish it prosperity and only wish it came out weekly. (The Hon. Editor finds monthly *quite* often enough!)

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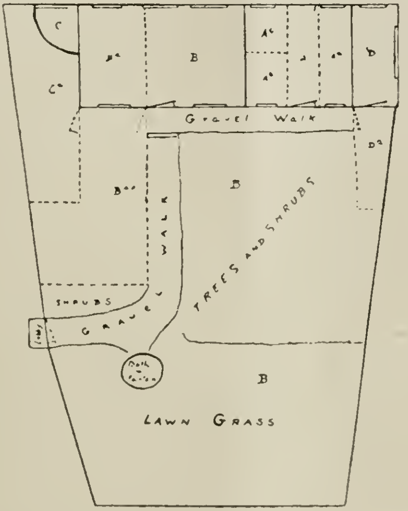
Visits to Members' Aviaries and Birdrooms.

By WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

MR. J. L. GROSSMITH'S AVIARIES: These aviaries, situated at Bickley, Kent, are certainly to be numbered among the finest the writer has seen: palatial and practical, roomy

Mr. Grossmith's Aviaries.—Interior View showing Shelters at back.

and natural, pictorial and neat, they yet furnish security and semi-liberty to their happy inmates, whose vigour, health and glistening plumage bear eloquent evidence to the care lavished upon them. They were constructed over a plantation of pyramid fruit trees, gooseberry and currant bushes; most of the bushes were grubbed out and replaced by conifers and various other evergreen and ornamental deciduous trees and bushes—the illustrations accompanying these notes faintly indicate the general construction.



Ground Plan, Mr. J. L. Grossmith's Aviaries.

KEY TO GROUND PLAN.

A.Aa.Ab and Ac.—Lobby Birdroom forming a safe entrance to the aviary, by means of the 4ft. wide tiled path through the centre. There are three flights, as shown by dotted lines Aa. being 10 x $5\frac{1}{2}$ft., and Ab and Ac. $5\frac{1}{2}$ x $5\frac{1}{2}$ft., each.

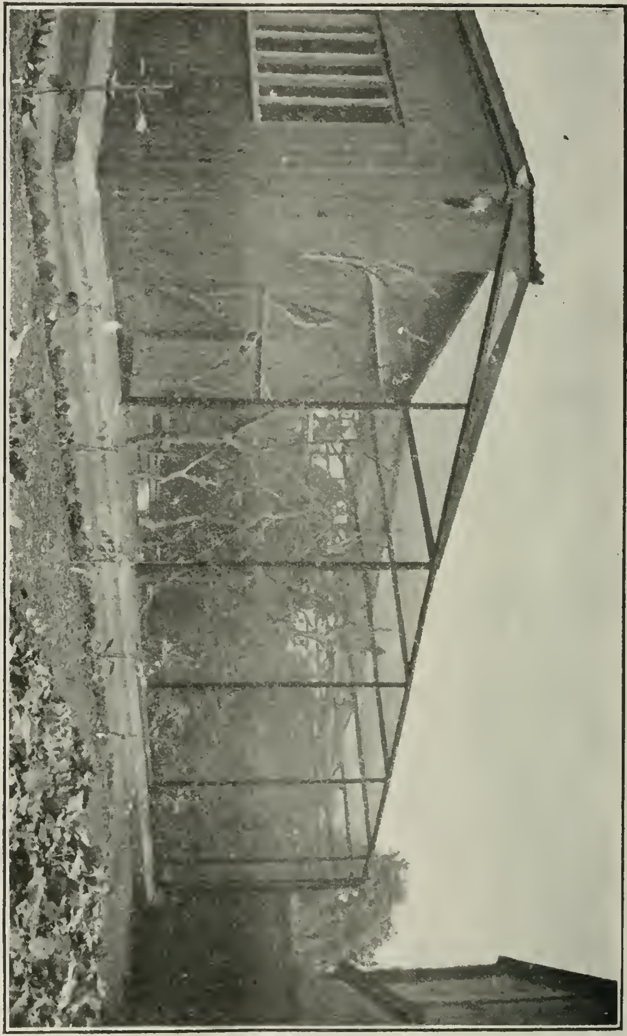
B. and Ba.—The main aviary shelter originally one large room 20 x 10ft., now divided into two by a wire netting partition as indicated by dotted line.

Bb.—The main aviary flight, with an area approximately 100 x 25ft.

Ba. and B.a.a.—The Weaver Aviary, the flight (B.a.a.) being a jungle of evergreen and deciduous shrubs.

C. and C.a.—Parrakeet shelter and flight respectively—this is well shown on photo-plate.

D.—A small shelter (about 10 x $4\frac{1}{2}$ft.) with a flight, D.a., about 12x 4ft.,



Mr. Grossmith's Aviaries—see Ground Plan at "C."

The double lines back and front of shelters indicate windows, and the lines at an acute angle mark the doors. These shelters have a total area of 50 x 10ft.

The ground plan and the photo-illustrations greatly facilitate my task of describing the aviaries, though it is prac-

Mr. Grossmith's Aviaries (Front View).

tically impossible to get a comprehensive photograph of the whole with true perspective. The facade of the aviaries is plain and tasteful, and though placed in the midst of the beautiful garden near the house, are not in any sense an eyesore; in fact, quite the reverse, for, even in this prominent position, they add to, rather than mar, the beauty of their setting. The whole structure is built upon a concrete wall 2½ft. deep by 9 inches thick, which runs entirely round the aviary; this effectively keeps out the rats, which are fairly numerous about the grounds. The flight is mostly constructed of 2in. x 2in. deal quartering, with half-inch mesh wire netting (thick gauge) stretched over the whole—it did not suffer any damage during the heavy snowfall in the early part of this year. On the east side there is a 3ft. height of matchboarding as a shelter, but on the S. and W. the netting extends to the ground, the N. end of flight being bounded by the shelters—the position is a fairly sheltered one.

The shelters form one range 50ft. long by 10ft. wide, and are constructed of two courses of matching with a layer of felt between, over a skeleton framing of 2in. x 2in. quartering. Shelters "B and Ba," and Lobby Flights "A" are heated by gas hot-water apparatus, the gas boilers being attended to from the outside, and having outlets only to atmosphere; thus almost any and every species of bird can be comfortably housed according to their several requirements. The shelters are stained exteriorally with "Solignum" (medium brown), with windows and doors picked out in very pale sea-green; the interiors are coloured pale sea-green—Hall's Washable Distemper being the colouring material.

The woodwork of the flights is also covered with medium-brown "Solignum," the netting receiving a coat of Brunswick-black varnish before being stretched over the framing, and the whole result is a most tasteful and handsome structure, which would adorn any garden or private park.

The trees and shrubs are looked after by the gardeners, and kept perfectly trim and in order, yet this does not effect the provision of cover for the birds and the work is carried out so as not to disturb the birds.

The shelters are kept spotlessly clean—the aviary attendant is at present with "the colours," but his wife is most effectively attending the birds, etc., while he is serving his King and Country.

I do not propose to give a list of the birds, but merely to indicate some of the families kept, in the hope that at a later date Mr. Grossmith will kindly write an article giving a list of the birds and recounting many of the episodes and successes that have occurred since the aviary has been in existence.

On entering the aviary by Lobby-shelter, one was at once struck by the quiet beauty of the structure, from which I was at once attracted by the flashing hues of Gold-fronted Fruitsuckers, Australian Honeyeaters, Zosterops, various Tanagers, Gouldian Finches, etc., as they disported amid the branches, and several bay trees in pots—here I paused for quite a time, as these were birds that had always fascinated me, while chatting with their owner concerning them—these alone forming a collection of which any bird-lover may well be proud.

Passing from here into the main aviary flight I was met by large numbers of the "Small Ornamental Finches," and a charming picture they were as they flew in and out of the trees and bushes (this flight being sufficiently large for six or seven persons to walk about in and yet leave the birds undisturbed); it was quite a natural picture, as they went about their business, foraging for prey and feeding their families. Here, in a bush, by the side of the walk one looked into the beautiful nest of that sweet songster, the Grey Singingfinch, and saw three bonny babes all but ready to leave their snug and safe retreat. Against one of the standards hung a small barrel, and therefrom came the cries of young Zebra Finches, yelling "blue-murder for grub"—these charming plebeians of the bird-world were everywhere, adults and young, nestlings still being fed and others just passing into mature plumage; what a scolding busy crowd they were! What a charming natural picture they formed!

Next Cardinals claimed my attention, Pope, Red-crested, and Virginian—the latter have nested several times, but, though young have more than once been fully fledged, none, as yet, have lived to fend for themselves. They were worth their place indeed, being nearly always in the picture, and a brilliant patch of colour at all times, they added life and beauty to the scene.

But I must not linger. Firefinches, Cordon Bleus, Long-tailed and Rufous-tailed Grassfinches, Melba Finches, Diamond Sparrows, Scarlet and Blue Tanagers, White Java Sparrows, Avadavats, flashed in and out of the picture incessantly; while occasionally Pied and Yellow Wagtails adorned this charming scene.

In the next aviary, "Ba," were gathered together a colony of Weavers, many of the Hyphantornine group, also Grenadier, Napoleon, Orange, Crimson-crowned, and many others; also other pugnacious pairs counted unsafe, owing to many misdemeanours, for the general crowd in the main aviary.

The adjoining aviary "C" was occupied by *Psittaci*. I noted Mealy and Red Rosellas, Pennant's, Jendaya, All Green and other Parrakeets; Peach-faced Lovebirds, Green and Yellow Budgerigars, all apparently in the best of health and fine plumage, their glowing plumage fully compensating for the lack of growing trees and bushes in their enclosure.

After leaving the aviaries I was shown two nests, by one pair of Hedge Accentors, from which two young Cuckoos had entered the wide world—the nests were placed in bushes at the back of the herbaceous border by the side of the tennis lawn.

The writer sincerely hopes that Mr. Grossmith will supply in the near future a more detailed account of the doings of the birds—the photos illustrating the above notes were taken by Mrs. Grossmith.

MISS LUCAS' AVIARY: Last month I spent an afternoon with Dr. and Miss Lucas at East Grinstead, who are new adherents to aviculture. While chatting aviculture with Dr. Lucas a charming Shama flitted about the room, begging continually for mealworms, it was tame and familiar, and of the many of this species that I have seen, kept or handled, I have never seen one in better condition or richer colour than the above mentioned bird. In the drawing-room while taking tea we were entertained by the antics and speech of an attractive Grey Parrot.

THE AVIARY: Some distance from the house in the middle of a large piece of wild ground, bordered all round by trees and shrubs stood the aviary. The flight, 20 x 12ft. with a shelter at the back. "B.N." members will remember that in 1914 the first aviary was burnt to the ground. the present aviary erected on the same site is practically fireproof as regards the shelter; nothing has been neglected that would tend to the safety and comfort of the birds—the shelter is heated during the winter months. The walls are of brick and the roof is first asbestos, then wood with an outer covering of "rubberoid." The shelter is fitted with a sliding door, and has a concrete floor. The flight is of half-inch mesh netting on a light wood framing, the netting being carried deeply into the ground to exclude rats. The ground is covered with rough grass and there are several evergreen shrubs. in one of which was a well made nest, built by Cuban Finches, from which one brood had already flown, it contained at the time of my visit two half-fledged young, which have since left the nest. While from another nest came the noisy call of baby Zebra Finches yelling for food. Only seed-eaters are kept, of which Miss Lucas has kindly supplied a list.

1 pair Himalayan Siskins (*Chrysomitris spinoides*).
1 pair Green Singing Finches (*Serinus icterus*).
1 cock Common Firefinch (*Lagonosticta minima*).
1 hen Bar-breasted Firefinch (*L. rufopicta*).
1 pair Spice Finches (*Munia punctulata*)..
1 pair Cuban Finches (*Phonipara canora*).
1 pair Zebra Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*).
1 pair Bengalese (*Munia domestica*).
1 pair St. Helena Waxbills (*Estrilda astrilda*).
1 pair Grey Waxbills (*E. Cinerea* .
1 hen Quail Finch (*Ortygospiza polyzona*).
1 Red Avadavat (*Sporaeginthus amandava*).
1 cock Jacarini Finch (*Volatinia jacarini*).
1 pair Abyssinian Sparrows (*Passer luteus*).

The following young have been successfully reared.

5 Cuban Finches.
3 St. Helena Waxbills.
5 Zebra Finches.

Dr. Lucas is at present much occupied with hospital duties, but I gather that when the piping times of peace come round again, the size of the aviary flight will be increased at the expense of some of the wild ground around it.

As I talked with Dr. and Miss Lucas in the aviary it was easy to understand the interest and pleasure they gathered from their aviary and its occupants, as one topic after another concerning their welfare was discussed. I, too, passed a most interesting visit, as many of the species in the aviary were old favourites of mine, when seed-eaters claimed a larger share of my attention than they do at present.

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Correspondence.

A REPUTED HYBRID ROSEFINCH × GREENFINCH.

Sir,—Referring to my previous letter published in the August number, in which I claimed to have bred a hybrid between a Siberian Rosefinch (*Carpodacus erythrinus*) and a Greenfinch, I now send you as full details as possible as to the nesting of the Greenfinch, and the appearance of the young bird. As I formerly stated, I have no direct evidence to offer as to the identity of the male parent other than is afforded by the striking resemblance of the young bird to the reputed father. The Siberian Rosefinch, though not wild, was a shy and retiring bird, and I never saw it take any interest whatsoever in any other bird in the aviary. I used to hear it, however, in the early mornings, in spring, incessantly repeating its simple little song. This song is very well described by Seebohm (quoted in Butler's "Foreign Finches in Captivity") as resembling the words "I'm pleased to see you," the "see" being accented and prolonged. The Greenfinch went to nest in a straw bottle-cover, fastened up horizontally on the wall, close under the roof of shelter-shed. (I may say I find these very acceptable as nests and sleeping places to most birds). Five eggs were laid, of which three were hatched. The period of incubation was about fourteen days. So far as I could see the young were fed on chickweed alone. I supplied armfuls of this every day. Soft food and yolk of egg were apparently not touched. The three young throve well till they were fully feathered, when one left the nest and was found hopping about the floor. I put it back in the nest two or three evenings, but it, of course, came out again with the daylight. When hopping about (it could not fly at this stage) it called for food, and was fed by the Greenfinch alone. I then found the other two young dead in the nest. The Greenfinch had deserted them, and was evidently thinking of going to nest again. This time there was no doubt about its being paired with a Mexican Rosefinch or Blood-stained Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), of which bird more anon. The young bird was soon able to feed itself. It was a long time learning to fly, and I found it had a damaged wing. It is now a strong and vigorous bird, and flies well despite its injury.

The following is the best description of its appearance I can manage: Top of head and back dull olive green, with smoky centres to feathers, causing a faint mottled appearance: rump, yellow-green; chin, throat and breast yellowish fawn-colour, with faint darker downward streaks: under stomach and vent, fading to white; wings, primaries almost black with a thin streak of yellow-green on outer edges; secondaries similar, but streak not so bright, rather browner; shoulder butts yellow-green, some of the feathers having darker centres give the appearance of a row of dark dots running across the shoulder; and these dots define a yellowish wing bar beneath them; upper tail feathers almost black, with outer edges green; under tail-feathers pale grey with a yellowish tinge. In some lights I imagine I can see a dull purplish tinge or bloom pervading the whole upper-surface of the bird; beak dark leaden colour, the upper mandible rounded or curved. Dr. Butler's illustration of the hen rosefinch shows the shape of the hybrid's head and beak exactly.

The other male birds in the aviary at the time of the nesting were Redpoll, Twite, Chaffinch, Linnet, and Orange Bishop. The young hybrid shows no trace of these. There remains the afore-mentioned Mexican Rosefinch. This is a most ardent and mercurial bird. He will sing and display to any hen in the aviary, even to a Meadow Pipit! He was the cause of the Greenfinch leaving two of its innocent progeny to starve, which is the more to be regretted since nothing came of the second mating. There is no resemblance to him, however, in the hybrids.

I may say I am permitted to refer you to Mr. Sykes, a fellow member of the Club, if this is thought necessary. His opinion as to the parentage of the bird coincides with mine.

I hope this over-long (but I fear not over-clear) description may be held satisfactory.

Midlothian, 30-9-'16. M. R. TOMLINSON.

BREEDING OF BLUE-BREASTED WAXBILLS, ETC.

Sir,—I have had a great success in breeding three beautiful Blue-breasted Waxbills, they are quite strong on the wing now (September 17th) and fly from one end of the aviary to the other. The nest was built in a small box tree, and this time, happily, no other bird interfered. (I had taken the precaution of removing the pair of St. Helena Waxbills, whose interference spoiled the Blue-breasts' first attempt). These three little Waxbills are lovely mites, blue and dove colour, just like the old birds, one has less blue than the other two, so I think it must be a hen.

The Melba Finches have failed again, four young birds were hatched out on this occasion, but another little Waxbill would think it was her nest, and, I think, tried to feed them, the consequence being that after about ten days one was pulled out of the nest and the others died. I think Melbas are very bad parents, as soon as they have young ones pretty well feathered they seem to get tired of looking after them.

I have another nest of Ruficauda Finches, strong young birds now I believe there is a third nest of young ones hatched out and being fed.

I have no end of Zebra Finches, too many. I fresh ones appear every day!

My pair of Cordon Bleus have a nest.

The Parrot Finches have made a nest in a hut, and the Gouldian Finches appear to be nesting also, but I fear it is now too late for any successful result. (Lady) E. SAMUELSON.

Cobham, 17-9-'16.

Sir,—The young Blue-breasts are doing finely and now I can hardly tell them from their parents.

The aviary is full of young Ruficaudas, three broods of young birds this season.

Cobham, 30-9-'16. (Lady) E. SAMUELSON.

NESTING NOTES, 1916.

Sir,—In answer to your enquiry there were six young Ruficaudas in the last brood, the nest was so full that one got pushed out and died; this was a pity but I have so many I did not seem to mind much.

I also have young Gouldian Finches in the nest, and greatly hope they will be reared.

I cannot now distinguish the young Blue-breasted Waxbills from their parents.

A recently acquired pair of Black-cheeked Waxbills are trying to make a nest, but, of course, it is too late for anything to come of in this year.

My Melba Finches have taken a strong dislike to the Parrot Finches, and will give them no peace; I shall either have to part with the Parrot Finches, or put them in another aviary, and must say I do not care for either alternative.

Cobham, 11-10-'16. (Lady) E. SAMUELSON.

DANDELION LEAVES FOR SOFTBILLS.

Sir,—There is nothing novel in mixing chopped dandelion leaves with food for softbills, but in my experience when this is done in the ordinary way, the particles of leaf to a large extent dry up and are not touched by the bird.

I am now trying a method which seems to get over the difficulty, and may be of interest to some novices of limited experience like myself. After finely chopping a sufficiency of dandelion leaves I pour over it first enough boiling water to render the mixture to which it is then added, sufficiently moist for use. (The advantage of this method is that the food contains the leaf as well as the tea, which was soaked into it and the birds consume every particle).

I am now treating the dried flies and ants' cocoons, which I keep separate from the rest of the softbill mixture, in the same way as the dandelion leaves, to which they can be added. (i.e., the dandelion leaves, flies and cocoons can all be together in the same receptacle when the boiling water is poured over them), as these ingredients seem to me to require more moistening and softening than the other items in the mixture, and usually do not get enough when the whole is moistened in bulk.

Kingstown, 9-10-'16. G. E. LOW.

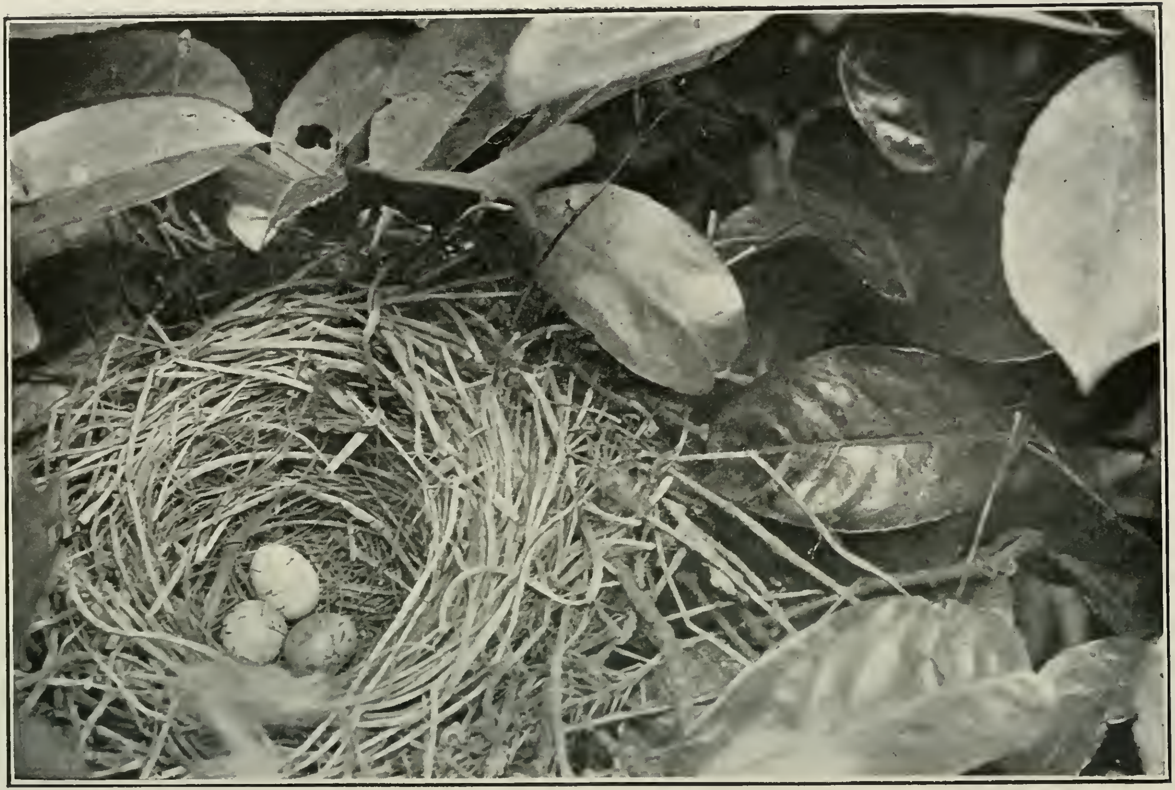

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Nest and Eggs Black-tailed Hawfinch.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Nesting of the Black-tailed Hawfinch and Red-shouldered Whydah.

BY W. SHORE BAILY.

I wish I had been able to head these notes the *Breeding* of the Black-tailed Hawfinch, etc., but I suppose one must expect as many failures as successes in aviculture, and after all I have been fairly lucky in other cases. This is the second time my Hawfinches have failed; the first time with our member, Miss Smyth, who came nearer success than I did with them, although the birds have had a better chance here, at any rate as regards space, than they had with her. Miss Smyth's failure with them, was I believe, due to their going to nest so late in the year, the parents entering into moult before the young were fully reared. With me they built a nest early in March selecting as a site the very branch of laurel on which my Chinese Greenfinches had last year built their nest, and successfully reared young. The nest was about the same size as a Blackbird's, and was built of fibrous roots and small twigs. For a long time I was uncertain whether it belonged to the Hawfinches or to a pair of Dinca Finches that I had noticed carrying building material from time to time. At the end of May, I saw the hen hawfinch busily engaged pulling the fibre from a coco-nut husk. With this she lined the nest fully six weeks after it had been built. On the first of June the first egg was laid, followed on the succeeding days by two more. These were decidedly small for the size of the bird and were almost exact replicas of our Yellow-hammers', being pale purplish white, streaked, spotted and blotched with brown. On examining the nest thirteen days after the first egg was laid, I found one newly hatched young one, the other two eggs having disappeared. The young one also vanished after five days, and strange to say the old birds have made no fresh attempt at nesting, although both birds have kept in very fine condition. As far as I could see the hen alone incubated, which she did very closely. I did not see the cock bird near the nest until the young one was hatched, when, I think, that he visited it to feed the hen, but as the little one lived such a short time, very little observation as to this was possible.

Red-Shouldered **Whydah.**

Photo W. Shore Baily.

I hope that another year they may be more successful. When I first started bird keeping in 1909, I bought a so-called pair

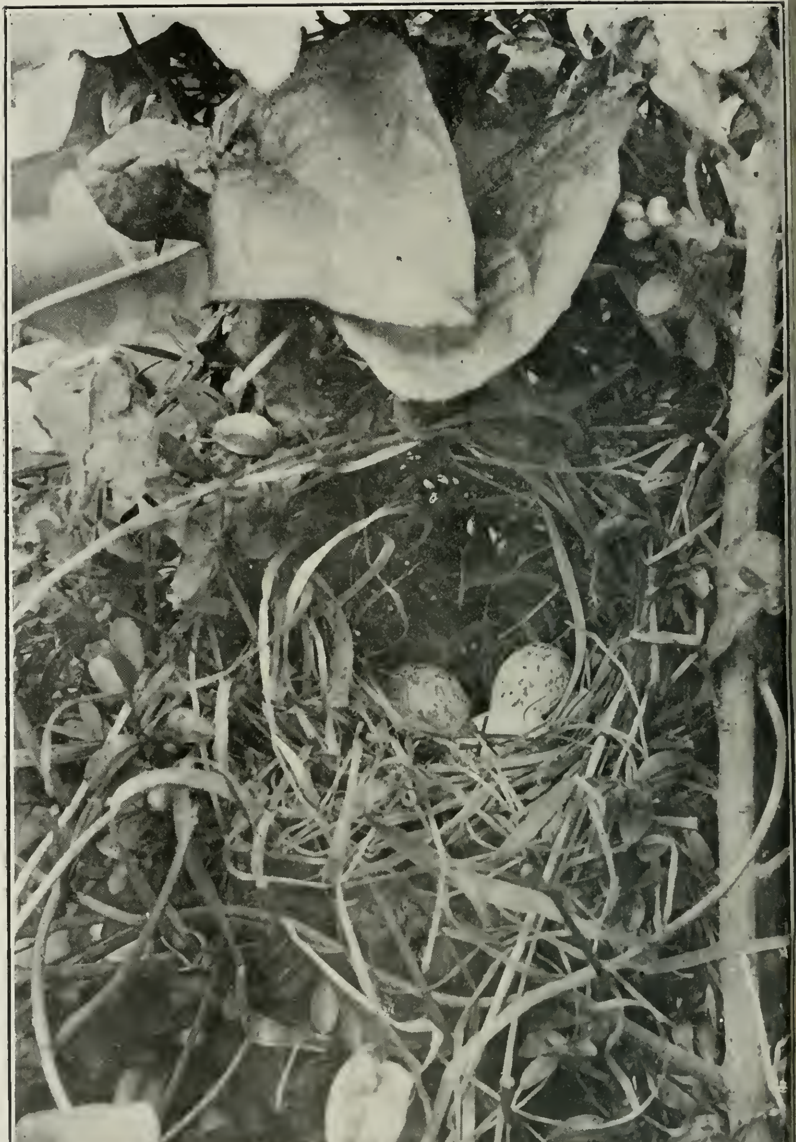

Photo W. Shore Bail

Nest and Eggs of Red-shouldered Whydah with Eggs of Red-collared Whydah.

of these birds, for I think the very low price of 10s. They turned out to be cocks of the two varieties of Eastern Hawfinches. The Japanese (*Eophona personata*) is considerably larger than the one about which I have been writing, moreover he is a fine singer, whereas *E. melanura* has rather a poor apology for a song, the cock's vocal efforts being little or no better than the hen's. It is a long time now since I have seen either of these birds advertised in the Bird Market. They are very desirable aviary birds.

My Red-shouldered Whydah cock came to me from our member, Mr. G. E. Rattigan, in I believe, the spring of 1913. He called it Bocage's Whydah, but I think that the Red-shouldered Whydah is the better name. Until this year it has had no chance of reproducing its kind here, as I have had no hens with it that were unattached, but this year I was able to furnish it with a mate. The cock is a heavily built bird, and, when in colour, is a rich black. A patch of scarlet on the shoulders is very conspicuous when the bird is displaying or in flight; the wing coverts are edged with brown. A noticeable feature is the bird's beak, which is large and of a pale bluish-grey. From the commencement of the season he paid the hen a good deal of attention, and about the middle of July he induced her to go to nest. This was built in a low bush, but I am unable to say whether it was the work of the cock or of the hen, as I was away at the time, and only found it after my return. It then contained eggs of both the Red-shouldered and the Red-collared Whydahs, and I photographed them just as they were, afterwards removing them for my collection. The Red-shouldered's eggs were white, blotched and speckled with red. After this failure he built her a nest in a creeper, a thinly woven domed affair. This the hen lined with some fine grass, and again laid two eggs whilst she was sitting, which she did rather unsteadily The cock had many fights with the Crimson-crowned Weavers, and the young Red-collared Whydah and was easily able to keep then away from the vicinity of his nest. After twelve days incubation one egg hatched ; the other disappeared. The little one only lived two days, so one more failure is to be added to my records. When the cock is displaying to the hen, he puffs up the feathers at the back of the neck and spreads his wings and rather short tail, his bill nearly touching that of the hen, and remains rigid for several seconds. I have frequently tried to get a photo of him in this position, but without success. In this attitude the scarlet patch on the shoulder, looks very pretty, and he reminds one very strongly of the Red-shouldered Blackbirds and Troupials. The song is a harsh wheeze, and quite unworthy of the name of music, but he certainly puts his heart into it.

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Stray Notes.

By Lt. B. Hamilton Scott, R.E.A.:

I have just recently seen a very beautiful Australian Broadtail belonging to a lady in this district. This bird has been in her possession over 22 years, and was brought by a friend from South Australia. He is a fine bird and shows not the slightest sign of age, either in beak, claw or plumage. I guessed from her previous descriptions that he was a Bauer's and I verified it on my visit by comparing him with the illustration in "Bird Notes," p. 123, Vol., 1910. Like most other Bauer's and Barnard's, he is very vicious to certain people. Apart from his beautiful colourings and great age, he is quite a performer; he will dance and whistle "Weel may the keel row," when asked to by his mistress, and also say a few words.

I thought this might be of interest as showing the age a Broadtail will live in a cage. The whole time this lady has had him he has only been out of his cage once!

Cardinals: Here is another little episode I should like to mention: I have had for the last three years in a natural garden aviary a pair (so called) of Red Crested Cardinals. I now have no doubt they are both cocks. During July they did a great deal of "sparring" and I was wondering if any member had noticed how this species (and perhaps other Cardinals as well) actually do fight. I had one splendid opportunity of observing them: they were both on the ground, when one made a sudden dash at the other. They both rose straight into the air to the top of the aviary (15ft.) singing all the time and fluttered towards the ground, facing each other. Their chief object seemed to be to "get to grips" with their feet, which they ultimately did just before reaching the ground. Each one had the other one's leg tightly gripped, and there they sat with heads back and crests raised and their tails spread out behind them. Neither seemed to have the advantage, and thus they sat for fifteen seconds. I only wish I could have had a camera handy and have snapped them. Then one must have relaxed his grip, for they dashed apart, both singing. The sight of these two fighting caused a Dominican Cardinal in an aviary some distance away to sing louder than I have ever heard him before.

Some weeks ago I liberated some young English Turtle Doves (*Turtur turtur*), bred in the aviary this year. I thought it would be rather interesting to see whether, after two generations of captivity, they had any migratory instinct left in them. At the present time (October 8th) they are still about. I have not seen any of their wild brethren for some days now. I might add that one of the old birds (the grandparent of the young at liberty) I have had for the last eleven years. I bought the pair when at school from a man who had reared them two years previously from eggs placed under a Barbary Dove. At 13 years he looks as fit as any young bird of last year.

FLYCATCHER AND BUTTERFLY: I always understood that practically all insectivorous birds avoided capturing and eating any species of British Butterfly. However, about the last week of August I saw a spotted Flycatcher fly after and catch a large white cabbage butterfly, which she promptly gave to one of her fully fledged young which was sitting with two others on the dead branch of a birch tree. I knew that most birds were very partial to moths, especially the large yellow underwing—and I have seen a Robin enjoying a meal off a large Poplar Hawk Moth. But this is the first instance in which I have seen a bird capturing and eating a butterfly.

An Unique Hybrid.

By Fl.-Lt. R. S. De Q. Quincey, R.N.A.S,

When at home, on leave, I noticed that my one remaining hybrid Parson × Long-tailed Grassfinch (♂) was taking a lot of interest in a nest of sticks and hay that he had built in a Hartz-cage (hanging outside the birdroom in the bottom aviary); but as he had built many nests at odd times, I gave the occurrence only passing notice, even when I saw an odd hen Ruficauda Finch at the same nest.

However, on the last day but one of my leave, I heard an unusual noise (a noise which no bird in that aviary would make) and soon I saw a small drab-coloured bird, obviously one which had just left the nest. At once I thought of the hybrid and the Ruficauda, and at the same moment down came the male hybrid, which began to feed the infant. About a minute later the Ruficauda Finch joined these two.

There could be no doubt about its parentage, though a double cross, among finch-like birds, is, I believe, almost unheard of.

On a closer inspection, at an age, I imagine, of about 18-20 days, this bird appeared to be drab-brown above, with a black beak, eye-line and bib (about the same size as the bib of a Bib Finch); while below it appeared to be a dirty greyish colour with a faint green tinge (I believe the latter has now become more distinct).

A letter from home, dated October 15th, states that this young bird is fending for itself, and flying in and out of the bird-room.

The other occupants of the aviary are: a crowd of Gouldian Finches, a Hair-crested Bunting, a pair of Indian Red-headed Bullfinches and a hen Orange Weaver.

I was very much surprised and much regretted that I had not been able to see the whole episode. I imagine such a cross is very unusual, probably unique—though of course, a Parson Finch looks very much like a Long-tailed Grassfinch, at any rate in colouration.

It is curious that this should be the only breeding result of the season, and that in September! The babe must have been hatched on one of the last days of August, as it left the nest on September 11th. [The only detail I can add is, that the hybrid's legs are salmon-pink; of course, the plumage is only immature. I trust we shall be able to winter it, and see what the adult plumage will be.—R. de Q.Q.].

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Bakloh Aviary Notes. Part II.

(Continued from page 246).

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS FROM, AND DIARY BY E. G. M. PERREAU, WITH NOTES BY MAJOR G. A. PERREAU.

NESTING OF RED-BILLED BABBLERS (*Stachyrhidopsis ruficeps*), and TAILOR BIRDS (*Orthotomus sutorius*).

April 27th.—Noticed Tailor Birds carrying something into hydrangea bush, did not look. Red-billed Babblers' eggs warm.

April 29th.—You will laugh at my attempts at keeping a bird diary, they are the merest jottings. Yesterday, all by myself, and by observation I found the Tailor Birds' nest, half finished in the hydrangea quite high up (say 4½feet), three or four leaves bent over and sewn together. I'd seen them fussing and offered some of my best selected lengths of cotton, but on watching them I saw him carrying fluff out of a husk, so gingerly went to investigate, quite time that I did. I do hope it will come off. The Rock Thrush lady is very fit and all over the place; the cock is very handsome, too lovely to live at times but an outside lady seems attractive to him. I try to get out in the afternoons to see something for you, but expect it is a poor attempt. Tell me the things you want to hear about most.

May 2nd.—L. Had inspection yesterday. Red-billed Babblers sitting tight. The Tailor Birds' nest is sweet, one big leaf for the bottom and 3 others bent downwards and backwards for the sides and sewn on to the bottom one, and a very thick layer of fluff, very soft nesting materials all round the inside filling up all the corners, a very small slit opening near the top, the side leaves only partly sewn, and the whole nest is really more fluff than leaf, which is unusual, isn't it? But I suppose that is owing to the tenderness of the leaves. (So much fluff is unusual; I, too, think it is owing to leaves being tender.—G.A.P.). Paradise Flycatcher quite strong and flitting about a lot, great interest is taken in it here, and Major Collins wants to photograph it, I'm encouraging this desire.

May 4th.—Tailor Birds have two eggs. I did not see the nest yesterday. Babblers sitting very tight—still eggs. Lady Rock Thrush very well but a bit shy when mealworms are being given out—one has to take pains with her.

May 5th.—Red-billed Babblers seem to be feeding.

May 6th.—Tailor Birds have 4 eggs. Red-billed Babblers have young. I felt yesterday, and it was warm and soft and wriggly.

May 7th.—Babblers have 2 young, I give many mealworms, but the old birds don't seem to sit much, I do hope they will grow up alright. They are crying for food but I believe the mealworms are too big to feed the young on. They go in with a worm and come out again with it. "What can I do"? I do wish I knew more about the subject. (I wrote a letter advising net sweepings, insects from lamp and water basin game and cut up mealworms, hand-fed to old birds if possible, against the time the Babblers should hatch but I fear my letter was late.—G.A.P.).

May 9th.—Paradise very lively, not frightened, but flying on to the wires and shrieking a lot though there are no others about close and no hens, wings really wonderfully strong. I go on feeding with mealworms. Tailor-birds—still eggs—the hen seems to do most of the sitting by day at any rate. Babblers have certainly one young still.

May 10th.—Very cold, rain, rain, rain, like early July. I think the Tailor Birds will soon be washed out.

May 12th.—I've got dreadful news for you. The Paradise was found dead this morning. I went for Dila Ram, as it was pure starvation, he must have left off his feeding the usual twice a day. I gave my usual in between times. Mealworms are getting a bit scarce, as they're beetling tremendously and I doubt if he gave enough. (Also I doubt if he gave proper food, his job, but gave the ordinary stuff as for the rest and did not change that often, when he found it uneaten—the swab.—G.A.P.).

Then the young Babblers are not, I looked in the nest and found nothing, I can only suppose it was a mouse or other bird. (Might be, but I think food was the reason.—G.A.P.). I told you they did not seem happy after the young arrived. It's most depressing, they're fussing about inside. If they build again, what do I do? Tailor Birds are all right but it's a terrible downpour for them. I don't get all the time I should like, to stay and look at them and I probably do not see things quickly.

May 13th.—Last night on way back from the Mess fairly early I saw an "Ant" and fled home to rouse the compound. They all played up bar perhaps Dila Ram, and we got quite a lot on the Range Road. Then my funny Khit reported lots on the lawn and I came back to find the back lawn (too near the house for my liking.—G.A.P.), a seething mass. The Ayah had filled a tin and Daphne was covered with them and as happy as you please. I've never seen anything like it, we all worked like niggers, cows were not thought of and Daffy was left as she was till dark. We did quite well, 9 bottles and tins full as well as heaps in my net. I'm trying to dry them to-day, I don't know how, but they're getting on and I'm working very hard. One of the Tits looking seedy. (Daphne age 1½ years should be a great nature lover if she goes on as at present).—G.A.P.

May 15th.—Had worry with Dila Ram, will insist that there's no fruit when there are lots of yellow blackberries and mulberries, then he swears the birds don't eat them. Then as to net sweeping. Kira nakin hai, billkul chaina, mausin chaina (No insects, none at all, it's not the season) as usual, but he went and came back triumphant, with the same words. About half an hour later I told him to bring me the net and I'd show him. He began fumbling with it, saying he was cleaning it, as there was dirt in it. I seized it and of course found all sorts of tiny live creatures there. Then he didn't understand how they got there. Now he really does go out and as you know a few creatures turn up and every little helps. My big net of live white ants is still lasting, I give these myself. They like them now, did not seem to at first. (Note: This is strange, unless birds were over-gorged with wild ones coming into the aviaries; it seems to have been an extraordinarily large flight and unusually close to the house. Nets for white ants are ordinary large butterfly nets, those for net sweeping are of thick drill on an old tennis racket, double cloth on front of rim and at corners.—G.A.P.). My dried white ants are not like yours, much blacker, and its difficult to get them clean and separated from wings and rubbish, because of the grease. (Note: It is rather tricky, and too long to go into here; these were probably over-dried, but I expect they'll be good food all right if not quite as succulent.—G.A.P.).

May 18.—Tailor Birds hatched. Mealworms very scarce, all beetles, giving sweepings and still have a few live white ants and shall give dried ones soon.

May 19.—Tailor Birds have two lovely children. By just lifting a leaf one can see right into the nest, 2 mouths opened wide at me to-day, the whole width being about the size of a pin head. Dila Ram says meat maggots are not ready yet, he has two lots, and they smell vile. He sweeps but does not get very much. Have given cake and milk the last few days, the Tailors do not touch it, but Babblers eat a bit.

May 21st.—All birds, including seedy Tits, are very well, young Tailors very fat and fit. I can see into the nest now without touching the bush at all. The bush is in lovely flower now, just a mass of pink.

Both the parents are out a great deal now, do not seem to sit with young much. Had snake frights, saw one coming out of a box in the aviary. Went to call the bearer, but it had disappeared, though I was only away a few seconds. We had a thorough search but found nothing, so think it went out, it was a small thin one and could easily have gone through the wire. The birds soon calmed down, a good sign. Anyhow the young Tailor birds are all right.

Pied Chats are nesting, since yesterday I've seen them taking stuff into a box over the shelter door. Why can't they do these things when you're here and can see it. They only die off with me through some ignorant stupidity. (Note: Can any aviculturist honestly say that he has never lost a bird through his own sins, either of commission or omission, through ignorance perhaps, but still really his own fault)? I've kept very few insectivorous birds in the breeding season, and those few Pekins and White Eyes had not much special attention, they just took their chance with the seed eaters and got no insect food regularly. As on this date the Pied Chats have started nesting and Tailors not finished their first round, so to speak, I continue my wife's letters in this Part, omitting all mention of Pied Chats. Part III. will, I think be longer in any case.

It is curious that these Bush Chats should nest in a box and so high. I expect they did not like their mound. fear of snakes perhaps, or that ass Dila Ram may have continued deluging it twice a day with water, a practice I ordered when the mounds were new so as to get grass to bind and to take off the newness of the artificial sites, but which I had stopped before I left. It all shows adaptability. The Babblers, failing a thick bushy tree in which to build their domed nest (one might almost call it thatched with green and dead leaves) took to a roomy (for them) box pretty well as high up as they could get one and built a domed nest inside the box, the thatching being much thinner than in a wild nest. The Tailors not finding good tough fig leaves (the round shaped ones) had to put up with tender hydrangea, used more leaves and reinforced the nest with an extra amount of lining.—G.A.P.).

May 26th.—Only one young Tailor can be seen but it seems fit. Babblers still fussing about. Giving meat and grubs as well now, great exertion getting them out of Dila Ram. (Not over keen on maggots for young, especially as D.R. won't clean them and I left them out of my instructions.—G.A.P.).

May 27th.—Tailors don't seem to be feeding young properly, though very fit themselves and the one young bird is looking very well.

May 28th.—You must come back to see to the birds. Those beastly Tailor Birds are building again. To my horror I saw the cock with cotton in his beak, so looked at the nest and found it empty. First thought—snake; but we eventually found the body, only just dead, very nice and plump. feathers on wings, back and head, not hurt in any way, or pecked, could it have tried to fly out by itself. Nest perfect. so don't suspect other bird, no sign of other young bird or the addled egg which were there three days ago. The cock has been shrieking at top of his voice (my poor wife.—G.A.P.) I put it down to high feeding himself and boredom with feeding the young. It was not my looking at the nest which worried them ? ? ?

(Note: I think my wife is right as to reason, mice might have caused desertion but the hydrangea tub is not inviting for mice. Snake worries might have upset them and looking at them might also have done it, but personally I do not think so.

Babblers: Cock started nesting about 12th April, hen helped about 16th, no eggs on 19th evening, three on 23rd morning. Hatched on 5th May. Last young one died 12th May.

Tailors: Nest half finished, 28th April; no eggs on 2nd May, two eggs on 4th, 4 eggs on 6th, hatched 18th; last one died 28th May.—G.A.P.)

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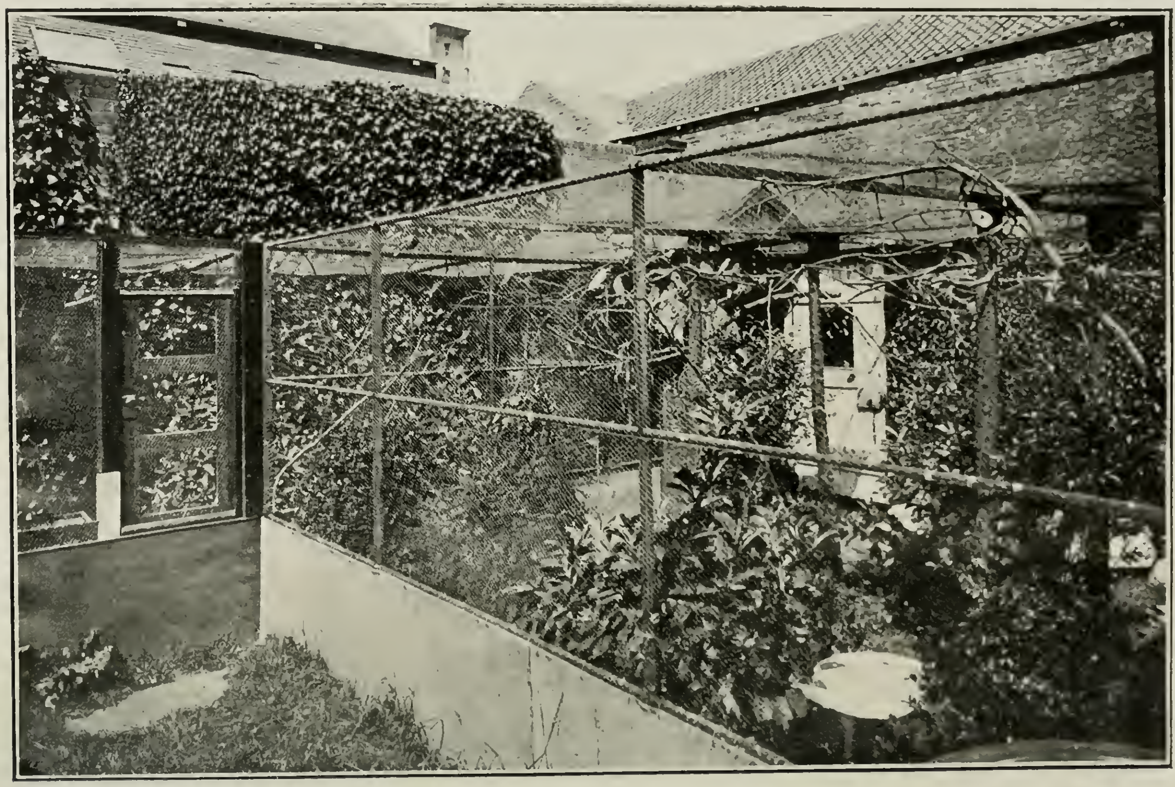
My Aviary and Birds.

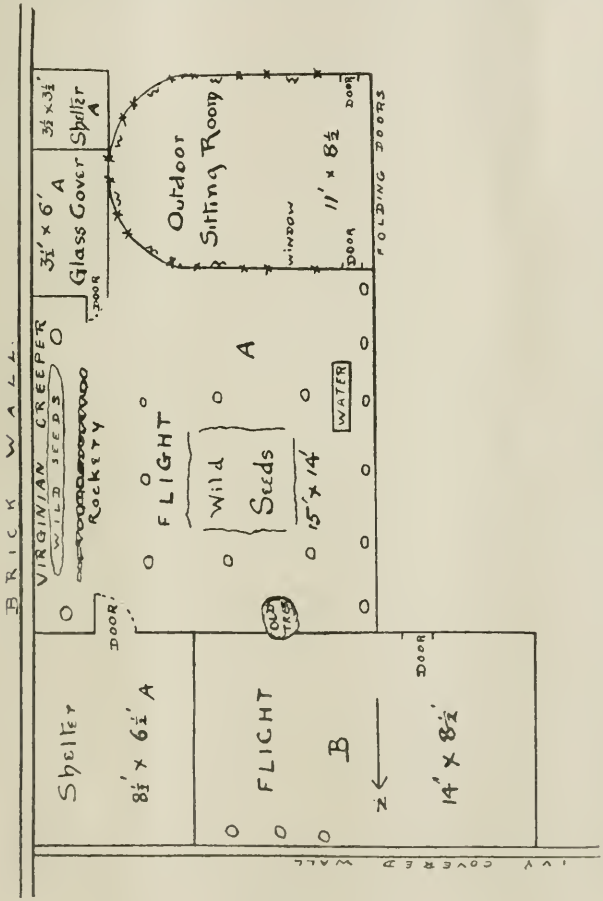
By C. F. Crow.

The object of this article is not inspired by any idea of enlightening members of many years study and experience, but rather with a view to showing to novices what can be done in the way of aviculture in the centre of a large town (Grimsby), and with a limited area of ground.



Mr. C. F. Crow's British and Foreign Bird Aviaries.

I was always fond of birds. After a breakdown in health I was advised to keep in the fresh air as much as possible, and I cannot imagine a more suitable hobby than aviculture, especially when violent exercise is barred. The birds are of intense interest, summer and winter, and I shall not attempt to count the number of happy healthy hours spent in the garden, which would otherwise have been spent indoors.


BRICK WALL
VIRGINIAN CREEPER
WILD SEEDS
ROCKERY
3½ x 3½'
Shelter A
3½' x 6' A
Glass Cover
DOOR
Outdoor Sitting Room
WINDOW
11' x 8½
DOOR
DOOR
FOLDING DOORS
A
FLIGHT
Wild Seeds
15' x 14'
WATER
OLD TREE
DOOR
Shelter
8½' x 6½' A
FLIGHT
B
N
14' x 8½'
DOOR

Ground Plan. Drawn to scale of ¼-inch to the foot, but reduced about one half in reproduction.

KEY TO PLAN.

B.—British Bird Aviary, as yet without a shelter.
A.A.A.A.—Various sections of Foreign Bird Aviary.
O.—Evergreen Shrubs.

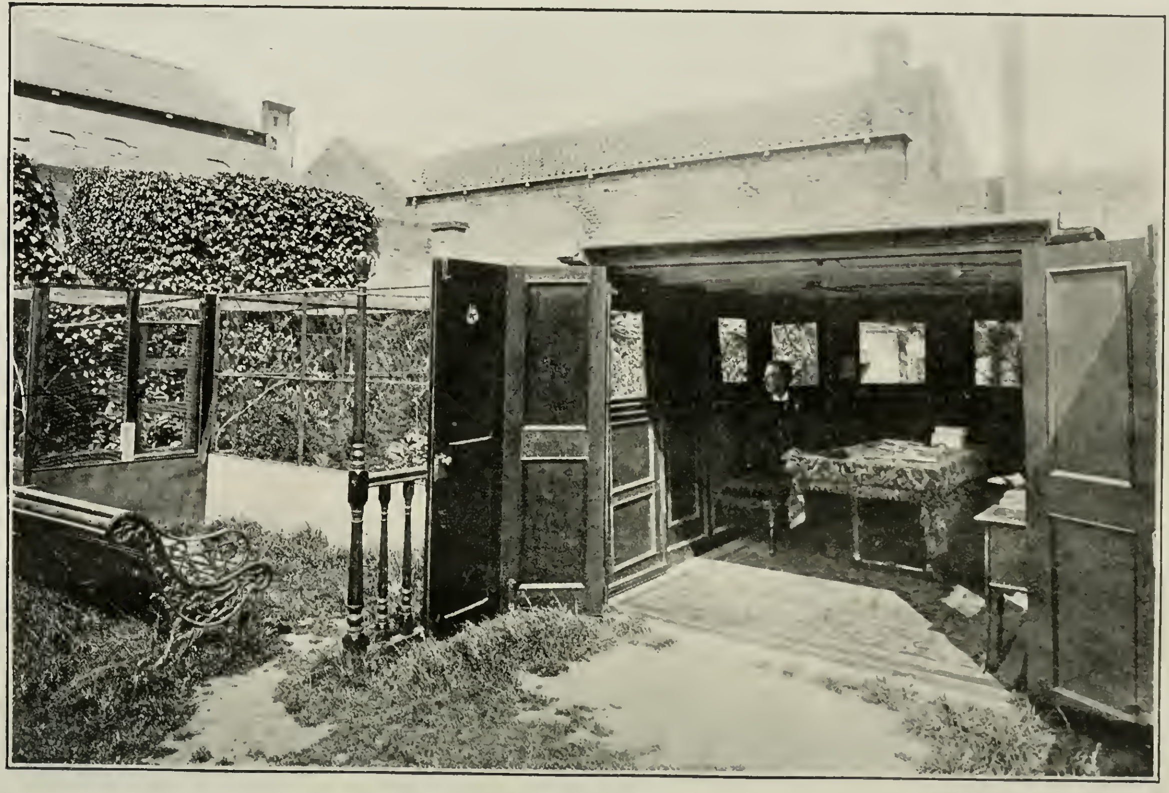
THE FOREIGN BIRD AVIARY: This had its beginnings in June, 1915, when I was fortunate enough to obtain a large (11ft. x 8ft.) polished teak Deck-House, taken from a steam yacht, which had been dismantled for the purpose of conversion into a fishing vessel. This, when erected in the garden and suitably furnished, made an excellent "Outdoor Sitting-room," in which most of our unoccupied hours were spent.

Now the aviary begins to come in; its beginnings were small indeed. With the deck-house I obtained a quantity of teak, tongued and grooved boards, and it occurred to me to build a small aviary between the "Outdoor Sitting-room and the outer east wall. This was done. It measures, including shelter, 9½ft. x 3½ft. A good view of the aviary is obtained from the outdoor sitting-room (see plan). I soon found it was overcrowded and that if I wanted breeding results, I must extend, so as to obtain a naturally planted flight. I commenced by obtaining a wooden shed 8½ft. x 6½ft. as an additional shelter, fixing it against the outer east wall, some 15ft. distant from the out-door sitting-room, and then netted in the space between the two, to a width of 14ft., thus obtaining a nice flight 15ft. x 14ft., as well as a good shelter for same. The shrubs are mostly laurels, aucubas, and privets—I find the growth of these is retarded by being under wire and the nipping off of the young shoots by the birds, especially Canaries. I had also reached a decision to construct another aviary for British birds (but I will refer to this later) as I had formed the opinion that they were better kept apart from foreign finches. I will now give a few notes of the birds I have kept in the above aviary.

MELBA FINCHES: I have only a male, he is in perfect plumage, but inclined to be sluggish.

RUFICAUDA FINCHES: A very handsome pair, at least three nests have been built, but, alas! no eggs have been laid. The constant "jigging" with nesting material of considerable length by the cock is most amusing.

ZEBRA FINCHES: My pair have built at least six nests and laid twenty-five eggs, but all were infertile. I think it would be well to exchange your cock with some avicultural friend.—ED].



Mr. C. F. Crow's Aviaries and Out-door Sitting-room.

ROCK BUNTING: Only possess a male, but it is a fine aviary bird, and does not molest the small birds.

SHAFT-TAILED WHYDAH: I was grieved to lose my fine cock on October 16th, the body when picked up was well nourished, and it was in excellent condition generally, including plumage. It was imported last June and appeared an exceptionally strong bird, and the cause of its death is a mystery. It had a peculiar habit of "hovering" in flight over other birds, but did not appear to be vicious.

CORDON BLEU: Have only recently obtained this bird. She has paired with an Orange-cheeked Waxbill, but I fear it is too late for results this season.

COMBASOUS: I have two of this species, imported in the early spring. One of them has come into perfect colour, but the other only partially so, most probably owing to its being a newly imported bird and climatic conditions here retarding the moult.

JAVA SPARROWS: Two pairs have nested, but all eggs have been infertile. I am inclined to doubt the sex of some, and the Greys appear aged, which may account for the disappointing result. I intend getting fresh blood before another season when I hope for better luck.

SAFFRON FINCHES: These nested in a small box in the open, laid a clutch of four eggs, and fully reared two strong young birds. But that is not the end of the story, worse luck! The parent birds murdered a Half-masked Weaver, the third day after being placed in the aviary—they also attacked other birds and made themselves so generally objectionable that I had to dispose of them. A success and a disaster!

TAHA AND HALF-MASKED WEAVERS: I purchased these handsome birds in the pink of condition. They had the experience of being delayed on rail many hours by a Zeppelin raid. Both died violent deaths, the former by an Orange Weaver, and the latter by the Saffron Finches.

Red-billed Weavers: I have found their indefatigable nest building most interesting, as well as the birds themselves, but alas! there have been no eggs.

Scaly-crowned Finches: I purchased these of a London dealer in fine feather. They soon showed signs of ill-health. Mr. Ernest Suggitt was called in and advised immediate removal to the kitchen stove, and the result was astonishing. I kept them in the house for three weeks, and then transferred them to the aviary. They are now nesting in a cork-bark nest outside the shelter, and eggs are about due to hatch, and I trust success may crown their efforts. They are most daring little birds, will attack any other bird that approaches their domicile. But for the timely advice of Mr. Suggitt, I fear that I should have lost these interesting mites.

Fire Finches: These are beautiful and interesting. They have nested on three occasions, but each time their nests have been molested by other birds, probably ribbon finches, who are thieves of nesting material.

Singing Finches: Most lively and interesting birds for an outside aviary, but are inclined to be pugnacious, especially with Canaries or birds of similar colour. They roost in shrubs, summer and winter.

Ribbon Finches: Had better luck with these birds—six young birds have been fully reared and results would have been better still had I not disturbed them while nesting—they resent their eggs or young being handled. I have found several nestlings dead outside the nests.

Spice Finches: These nested and four eggs were deposited in the nest; a little later the hen was found dead in the nest.

Indigo Bunting: Most active, beautiful and charming bird for the general aviary.

Alario Finch: The cock is a happy little chap, possesses quite a nice song, but he is exceedingly bad mannered and greedy on the seed-tray.

SILVERBILLS: Have only recently obtained a mate for my odd cock, but they immediately paired up and built in a rush nest, of course I am as yet unable to say with what result.

Although the breeding results during the past fifteen months have been poor, the mortality has been very low. I have made a mistake in buying odd birds of doubtful age, and I attribute my poor breeding results to this fact, and also that I have too many odd cocks in the aviary. Before another season I intend levelling up matters and shall hope for better results.

In the matter of greenfood during the winter and early spring I find that a few wild seeds thrown from time to time, into the flight, and lightly covered with earth, provide an excellent food and tonic. I set a few artichokes in the early spring, but they were all eaten and not allowed to grow. I also grow Mulein seeds, which are a *tit-bit* for most foreign birds.

BRITISH BIRD AVIARY.

This is already a misnomer, but I must follow out the plan of description with which I commenced—this flight, 14ft. x 8½ft., was erected for the British birds, which I considered would be better separated from the foreign species. I did not provide any shelter as the back wall was thickly covered with ivy and I considered this would supply sufficient protection for indigenous species.

With the ground plan and photos further description is uncalled for, though I had better remark *en passant* that my intention for this aviary is to reserve it for large birds. when a suitable shelter has been added thereto. A few notes as to the inmates.

CALIFORNIAN QUAIL: These are not satisfactory birds for a small aviary. They want much room and plenty of ground cover, otherwise they are given to fright, and consequent damage to many nests. They laid ninety eggs, but made no attempt to incubate.

GLOSSY STARLING: This bird was in superb condition until attacked by the cock Californian Quail (I have since disposed of the quails). He is extremely tame, and his chatter and mannerisms are most amusing.

CHAFFINCHES: They have made no attempt to nest, but I have reason to believe that they destroyed three nests belonging to the Goldfinches.

GOLDFINCHES: Three nests in all were built, and thirteen eggs were laid, but there was no result, owing to the persecution of the Chaffinches.

GREENFINCHES: Three nests were built in the ivy and eight young were hatched out, but only three were fully reared. The young appear to get puffy and waste away when about six weeks old. I am inclined to think this is due to want of sufficient natural food.

REDPOLLS: These were mischievous, tame, and interesting birds, but they made no attempt whatever to nest.

More recently I have re-transferred some of the British birds back to the Foreign bird aviary, and am reserving the British bird aviary for larger birds, such as Glossy Starling, and in the spring, after providing additional shelter, intend turning out a pair of Large Hill Mynahs and a Blue-cheeked Barbet (at present in cages), and hope they will do well therein.

I cannot close this article without adding a few words of grateful thanks to our worthy Editor, also Messrs. Robt. and Ernest Suggitt, Mr. E. E. Bently, and others for their willing help and advice, without which I should, most probably, have made many more errors than I have done. I much appreciate the value of the membership of the F.B.C., among whose members there is a genuine desire to assist one another. Long may it continue.

Correspondence.

HISTORY OF THE BUDGERIGAR.

Sir,—May I correct some misprints and misplacements, which I notice in the different instalments of the "History of the Budgerigar." The first are of minor importance but some of the second make those portions of the article, which they mar, difficult to follow even by

Yours faithfully,

THE WRITER.

CORRIGENDA.

Page 68, line 16, for "Batcherrygah" read "Betchtcherrygah."

Page 69 line 14, for "Nanodeg" read "Nanodes."

Page 130, line 10, omit the asterisk, as the footnote to which it refers is absent, not, I hope, blue pencilled as noxious. [The footnote was not blue pencilled, but went astray somehow.—Ed]. It is as follows: "It will be remembered how much more numerous cocks were than hens both among imported and the earlier aviary bred birds.—E.H."

Page 131, the small print commencing with line 15 was written as a foot-note, and should have been printed as such; it refers to the asterisked words "Blue Budgerigars" in line 13. As printed, the passage can only read as the commencement of my quotation from Mr. Millsum's "Bird Notes" article, whereas this quotation really begins with the August instalment, page 200.

Page 202, first foot-note. This should have been on the previous page as it refers to paragraph four there. Second foot-note, correctly placed, as it refers to line 1 of this page, but the note needs an asterisk to indicate its reference.

Gambia, 28-9-'16.

THE SEASON, 1916.

Sir,—Our birds have not done badly this year, for we have had very little time to give to them. The Gouldian Finches are in superb form, but as far as I can see they have but two youngsters among the lot of them.

The Purple Sunbirds constructed a flimsy nest in an upturned broom—the three eggs fell down through the hairs of it. I tried to pick them up and support the nest a bit, the hen sat patiently for weeks and weeks on the place where she laid them! Of course it was all wasted effort.

(Mrs.) E. SCOTT.

OCCURRENCE OF THE RED-THROATED PIPIT IN DEVON.

Sir,—It may interest readers of "B.N." to learn that I saw a fine specimen of the Red-throated Pipit (*Anthus cervinus*, Pallas) on September 22nd last, on one of the higher creeks of the River Dart, S. Devon. It was a cock bird in full plumage and excellent condition, and was so tame that I was able to study it for some time.

On referring to my edition of Morris' British Birds, published in 1870, I find his plate of this bird most accurate in colouring, and at that date he writes:

"I have much satisfaction in giving for the first time a figure of this
"bird as a British one" and states, 'that it had been seen in the
"neighbourhood of Dunbar and Edingburgh—but this species inhabits
"principally the South and East of Europe. It is also found in the
"American and Asiatic Continents and likewise in Japan."

I shall be interested to learn if any of your readers have seen the bird in their districts, or if it is still a rare bird in Great Britain.
Babbacombe, October 31-'16. THEO. FOSTER.

[Howard Saunders in his Manual of Brit. Birds (1899 Edition), gives the following occurrences: March 13, 1884, a bird-catcher brought to the late Mr. Swaysland, of Brighton, a specimen of this species —it was examined in the flesh by Mr. J. H. Gurney, and duly recorded in the Zoologist. In the Zoologist, 1884 (p. 272), Mr. Walter Prentis stated that in April, 1880 he shot an example of this species at Rainham in Kent, while it was feeding and singing among the freshly-turned furrows behind his plough—both these specimens were later examined by the late Dr. R. B. Sharpe, and the former was exhibited by him at a meeting of the Zoological Society, April 1, 1884. Up to that year no thoroughly authenticated British-killed example was known, although to the late Mr Bond possessed a genuine specimen of the bird labelled "Unst., May 4, 1854," purchased at the sale of the collection of the late Mr. Troughton. Subsequently, as recorded by Mr. F. Coburn (Zoologist, 1896, p. 101), an example was obtained near St. Leonard's, Sussex, on Nov. 13, 1895, and this was exhibited at a meeting of British Ornithologists' Club in the following December. There have probably been many later occurrences.—ED.].

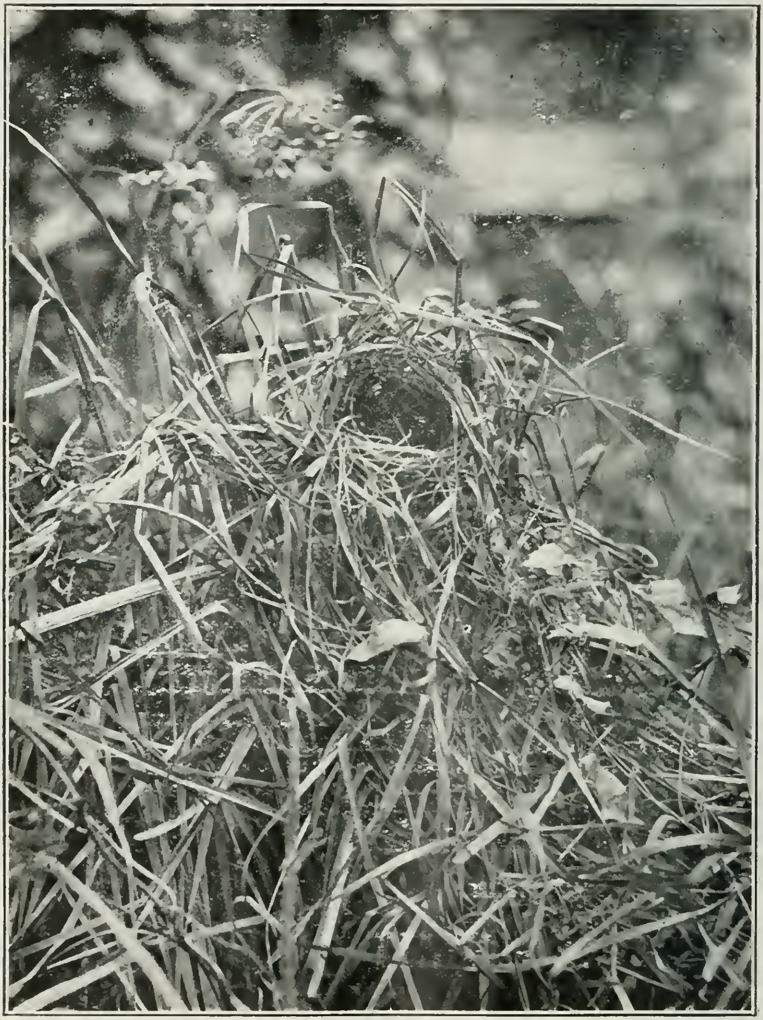


Photo W. Shore Baily.

Crimson-ringed Whydah's Nest.

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Crimson-Ringed Whydah.

(Penthetria laticauda).

By WM. SHORE BAILY.

A very fine coloured drawing of this handsome bird by Mr. Goodchild appeared in the November number of B.N. for the year 1911. The species at that time was practically unknown to aviculturists, the few birds that had reached this country being either in the hands of exhibitors, or at the Zoo. In 1914 Mr. E. W. Harper brought over a few from East Africa, and of these I secured a cock and two hens. The cock, when in colour, is black; the back, wing coverts and a patch on the thighs heavily striated with brown; the crown of the head and a wide ring around the neck crimson. They are considerably larger than their cousins (*P. ardens*). My male was a long time coming into colour. and was not in full breeding dress until August; I think that this was probably the reason why they did not breed. He built three nests; one in a bush, another in a conifer and the third in a bunch of grass (see plate). This last was very neatly built, and was much like that of the Jackson's (*D. Jacksoni*), but instead of being on the ground, was about two feet above it. Unfortunately he was unable to persuade either of his mates to take possession of it although I occasionally saw one of them making a casual inspection of it. In the article on this bird already mentioned it is said to construct playing grounds, after the manner of *D. jacksoni*, but my male made no such attempt here, although there was every facility for his doing so. Moreover, his display was totally different, and I never saw it take place upon the ground. I noted neither he nor his mates were at all partial to the ground, and seldom alighted except to drink. The hens were very retiring birds, and spent much of their time in the recesses of a laurel, or else hiding under the overhanging leaves of the wild convolvulus, with which the aviary was somewhat overgrown. During the heat of the day the cock rested in similar situations, but in the early mornings and late evenings he was very restless and active, his displays then being very frequent and his song incessant. At one time he will sink his head into his shoulders, drop his wings like a pheasant or common fowl, his tail being carried horizontally; at another he will hold his body very erect with his breast well stuck out and his tail spread to its full extent, and close his eyes as if in an ecstasy (see photo). Occasionally I have seen him hovering over the hen in much the same way as the Pintail (*V. principalis*) is so fond of doing. His song, which is quite a long one, is practically inaudible, except for the last note, which resembles the croaking of a frog. I cannot say that his wives seemed much impressed by either his singing or displaying.

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Bakloh Aviary Notes. Part III.

(*Continued from page* 270).

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS FROM, AND DIARY BY E. G. M. PERREAU, WITH NOTES BY MAJOR G. A. PERREAU.

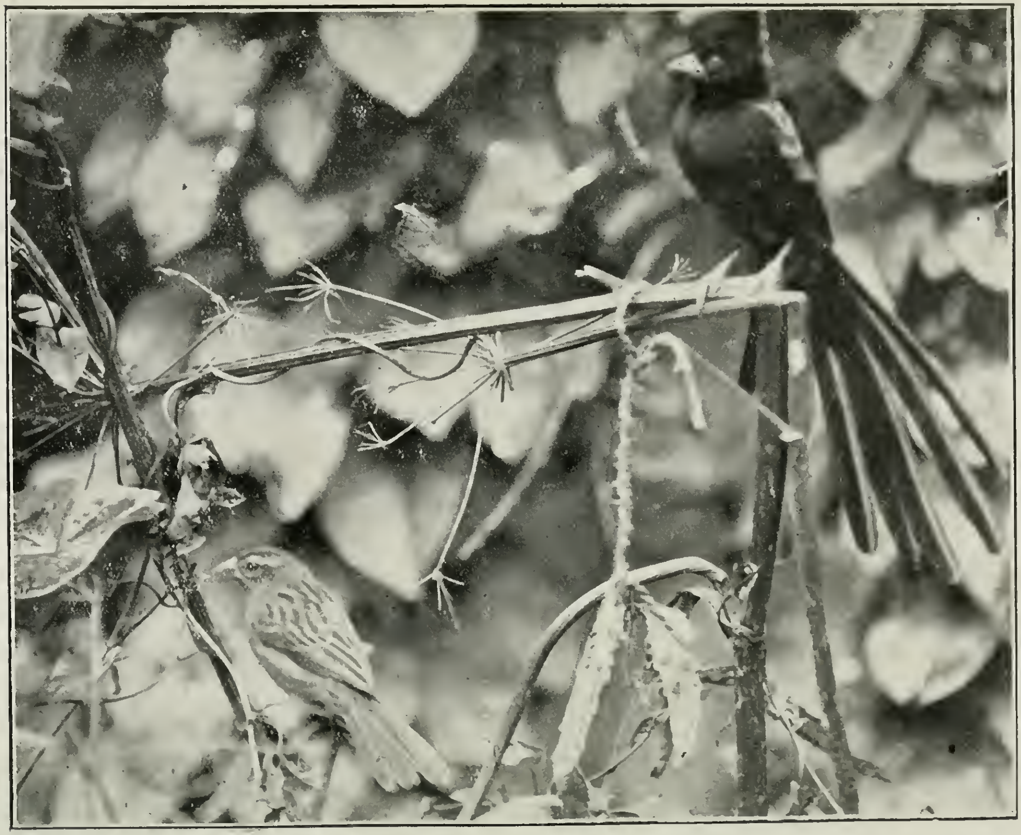
BREEDING OF PIED-CHATS AND TAILOR-BIRDS. May 22nd.—Pied Chats are nesting in box over shelter door about 7 feet up.

May 22nd.—Pied Chats are nesting in box over shelter door about 7 feet up.

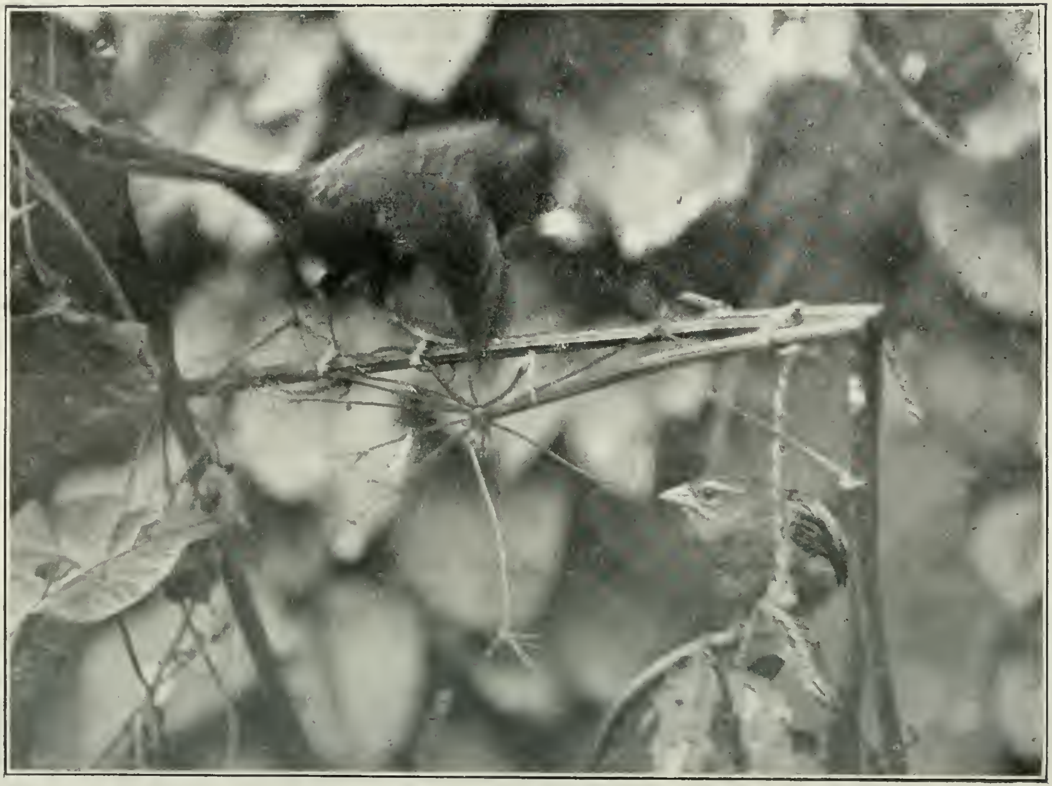
May 26th.—Pied Chats busy with fluff, no eggs.

May 28th.—Tailor Birds young dead, nesting again, new nest is in fig leaves, only a little sewing at present. Birds in splendid plumage and very noisy.

May 30th.—Pied Chats have 4 or 5 eggs. Terrific storm yesterday, which rather knocked hydrangea about, the



Crimson-ringed Whydah displaying. *Photo W. Shore Baily.*



Crimson-ringed Whydah displaying. *Photo W. Shore Baily.*

heavy flower heads flop down a bit. On inspection to-day found a new Tailor Bird's nest, almost finished, quite close to the first. Gave me a shock, I knew they were building, but I put it down as being in another place and I did not expect such rapidity. Failed to get a shot at a snake in Swifts' nest in the verandah, servants frightened it away before I could get the gun.

June 3rd.—Tailor birds have 3 eggs. Pied Chats still have eggs; noisy, fussy lady she is.

June 9th.—More bad news, D.R. reports one of the Red-billed Babblers in near aviary is missing, I'm sure he's let it out he's very careless about shutting doors behind him, and in this weather the wood warps and the weight does not close door properly, also he's very careless about "shooing away" the birds from the door when he takes in mealworms. No "body" can be found anywhere, but I haven't seen one around aviary outside. Still I think it got out. D.R. says it died as the young died, then he tried a snake and fifty other excuses. I'm very sorry about it. D.R. has been extra slack I expect of late, as he knows I'm terribly rushed with no Ayah, and being with the children all day.

You're really saying quite pretty things to me about my bird notes—birds really are quite interesting creatures, and your chair in the verandah is most comfy, but they do want time, and that I have'nt had lately.

June 11th.—Pied Chats have young. Tailors sitting hard

June 16th.—Tailors have one young just hatched. Pied Chats young going on all right.

June 17th.—Hen Tailor Bird sits and she feeds, but neither seem to take food to young. Pied Chats both feed mealworms to their young, but sit very little, and spend much time on branch outside nest, screaming at it.

June 20th.—Both Tailor Birds seem to feed young with dried white ants.

June 24th.—Tailors, 2 young (and 1 egg) and Pied Chats young (still in nest) doing well. Mealworms coming on well, there is that "just moving mass" in the meal that means lots of worms and they are of different growths too, which is a good thing. Fearful rain lately.

June 26th.—Not seen much of birds owing to fever, still very shaky. Tailor-birds young being fed; 2 young Pied Chats out, and sitting in branches high up in the shelter, a good place; two little pets much fussed over and fed by both parents. Are they coming out direct as cock and hen? One is very brown and very speckled like ma, only more variegated, with whiter front, and has speckling at the throat like a sort of bib, the other looks so much blacker all over.

June 27th.—I don,t know how long you are going to be away at the war, but assuredly you will not find me in this little world if you don't come back soon. To-day I killed an enormous snake in the aviary. Birds showed it to me. Of course D.R. said there was no stick at all and no snake. ` Bilkul chaina ! as usual Then the two coolies rolled up full of joy, they beat the grass in the far aviary, and eventually saw it in the quail dug-out, poked it out and missed it, whileI watched the aviary verandah; of course it slipped up there into the big box in the far corner. The Khansamah now strolled up and took command, and stuffed up the hole with a jharun (duster), and proceeded to cut down the wiring of the box !—sorry, but this had to be done. A second entrance was discovered, and a coolie whipped off his skull cap, found it too small, so took off his waistcoat to stuff up the hole. D. R. all this time was inside—a nice safe place. Finally the box was brought forth and put on the lawn, one hole undone, and the snake poked. By this time the orderly, and about half the bazaar I should think, had rolled up, all armed with sticks, and stood round. Snake refused to move (Note : It is not noticeable from outside but this box has two separate compartments, so probably the beast could not get out of the other hole.—G.A.P.) I got the 28 bore walking stick gun and dustshot cartridges, did my " usual " and amidst wild excitement the head and about four inches was dragged out and then—yards. I felt very sick, rushed away, and had hysterics. It was a bit of a doing for me, as I was just crawling after a bad go of fever, and a snake has not the most soothing effect on me at the best of times. But I got it! Honestly, D.R. would never have done it even if he'd seen it.

(Note: D.R. would certainly never have seen it, though the birds give away the presence of a snake in a most unmistakeable way, and of course the young Chats at least would have vanished. My wife's "usual" consists of putting the muzzle of the gun into the snake hole and pulling the trigger, a most dangerous game. She's done this several times before and about which I've spoken to her, apparently without effect. This snake was evidently a dhamin (rat snake), and harmless as regards poison, the others were very deadly snakes, Russell's Vipers, and one willingly takes a risk if one finds them close to the house. Even the wriggling of a worm makes my wife uneasy, so I don't wonder at her bolting after finishing the job.—G.A.P.)

The birds seem to have survived the snake fight all right, but every bird has shrieked for an hour and the nursing mothers had hysterics, and it's just pandemonium; my legs are water and my head's going round like a teetotum. Hope you can read this. I'm sitting out with the birds (ought to have been in bed.—G.A.P.) and have given some soothing mealworms, and things are gradually quietening down. The P. Chats will nest again I fancy, at least the lady intends to, ek dum (at once if not sooner), hope she won't stop feeding, the cock seems more intent on going on feeding.

June 28th.—Two young P. Chats quite well, being fed so far. Only 1 young and 1 egg in Tailor Birds' nest, there were 2 young on 24th, no trace of corpse, but I was rather shaky and grass was long! D.R. reports one Red-billed Babbler missing in far aviary, suggests snake, don't believe it (nor do I, a snake takes some time to catch a bird by daylight unless in a box.—G.A.P.)

June 29th.—Saw long grass snake in far aviary at 6 p.m., an hour at which it is hard to find servants. We had a thorough search without any result. This was a real one, but I feel that I can see snakes at any moment. Two young Chat. are very well, and take things most calmly, though they can fly very well. I haven't seen them feeding themselves, yet, but they are well fed by both parents. I was mistaken as to difference in their plumage, both are alike brownish and speckled like Ma. Ma is a terrible fusser. One young Tailor still in nest, very fat and fit. Am having grass in aviaries cut and wistaria trimmed and cut back.

June 30th.—Baby Tailor Bird is out! I can just see it in the hydrangea being fed by Ma. I do hope it will live. I'm not breathing at present. It does seem a shame so little decent food can be got to you—the mealworms here are so well fed. (Things have greatly improved since then.—G.A.P.)

July 1st.—Baby Tailor all over the place during the day and back in the hydrangea at 6 p.m. Saw *Three* young Chats to-day, always was doubtful as to there being only two. One is different from the others but dark form predominates.

July 3rd.—The baby Tailor Bird is a little pet, no tail whatever, very fluffy and white in front and nice greenish grey on back, about the size of a bumble bee, flies not at all badly and is simply a little devil, completely runs its parents. Put itself to bed in the verandah. I of course threw fits and tried to get it back into its nest and put on on greatcoats, and mufflers. I do hope it will live. I spend much time dodging that beastly Rock Thrush over live food. I have just now put a plate of cut-up mealworms on top of the cages in the verandah, as the Infant was sitting in the branches just above. See that thing call up Pa and Ma, it just yelled and howled at the sight of food. I wave a flag at the Rock Thrush, it's very funny how the Tailors don't mind it a bit they know perfectly well that it's for him and not for them.

July 4th.—Young Chats well but can only see two. Those beastly Tailor Birds are going to nest again, can they do it three times? (Wild ones prefer August to June.—G.A.P.) I thought I'd done with these children. I shall never get through another nest with all their live food and shooing off other birds. I shall strangle that Rock Thrush some day, turn your back for a second and some hours' work is gone in a few gulps. The infant does nothing for itself, yet so if parents take to nesting, be prepared for the worst. Mealworms will be well on by time the next young come out, that's something.

July 5th.—Three young Chats, very dark speckly over head, and back varying into very dark brown, almost black tail, very dark wings (the long feathers), the upper-parts darkish brown and speckly with bits of white, not like uniform brown of hen, pale brown fronts. Parents seem to have given up the idea of nesting again.

Tits looking only fairly well, moulting heavily and one doing so badly. Babbler in far aviary very bad, put it in a cage, the one in near aviary not too fit.

July 6th.—Babbler in cage died, rather light but a full crop and well covered breast bone. (Note: The warm deluge of the "rains" seems to try most birds, especially Australian, far more than the cold rains and snow of winter; probably old food is the danger here, a clean up would also do no harm, especially just before the rains.—G.A.P.).

July 8th.—Chats are feeding themselves a little at any rate on live things, though still being fed by parents.

July 10th.—Tailor Bird growing a tail and going very strong. It seems to have deterred its parents from nesting again. It bosses them entirely. The Chats are feeding themselves a good bit. They are very pretty now, their plumage is so variegated. Shoulders very speckled yellowish and brown, then a band of light yellowish and then quite dark tips to the wings and tail. Head dark brown, breast ashy but browner and more speckled by throat and neck and then changing to a more uniform colouration. Probably this one is a cock, another is certainly less variegated and less marked in colour, though not the uniform brown of the hen.

July 12th.—Tailor's tail growing apace, parents not nesting. All youngsters doing well.

July 15th.—Chats practically feeding themselves though I can't be certain that parents have entirely given up feeding them. Of course the Demon Child won't feed itself, though its parents are trying to get it on to cake. I'm sure it can feed itself.

July 16th.—The infant which is now exactly like its parents, except for a shorter tail was discovered wolfing cake, but parents still feed it, though it seems unnecessary? The Chats are well grown up. Can't you get gold medals? I'd love you to get gold medals; and I've done such a lot, caught moths and insects at windows and in nets and in water, lighted lamps all night, cut off mealworms in their tender youth and induced Dila Ram to earn his pay almost. Won't I do as a witness as it were? Those youngsters were always on my mind (or rather my probable sins of omission were) and you should have seen the fever stricken woman staggering round watching the pink snakes go by, trying at the same time to count young birds and tempt them with hardly-gained live food and shooing off giant robber birds. I'm sending a rough diary. (Note: Observe the greed of the female mind, *gold* medals indeed. Still I do think she's deserved them, and if any medal is awarded it should go to her and not to me. What advice I gave would have been useless without her energy and care. I've asked her to leave the birds to Dila Ram, as she's apt to do too much; one human Demon-Angel child gives her ample to do at the present. No bird news for a week as my wife was ill in bed, Dila Ram reporting that birds were all right.—G.A.P.)

July 23rd.—Nervous break-down is imminent. The fever stricken woman staggered from her bed to the drawing room window and there—did she see three Tailor Bird's nests before her?—She did. Is not every law of Nature outraged by this? It's a beautiful little nest quite close to the other two, almost finished, exquisitely sewn and stuffed. Parents very busy and child is not fed when it asks—so it just goes over and takes what it wants out of Pa's mouth; saw it take a mealworm. I saw it eating very heartily, so put this down to laziness (or greed.—G.A.P.). Infant very well, so are the Chats and all the other birds including the Tits and the Babbler. How any birds lived through this last six days' deluge I can't imagine. There should be no difficulty as to mealworms when next young do come, there are thousands and thousands nearly fully grown and tiny and still beetles, so all is well. Can't you get two gold medals for all this. I'll try to get more data this time if necessary.

(Note: How persistent is woman? I think this a good place to stop, other letters have "birdy" bits in them but constitute another era so to speak. The Tailor Bird and Chat young were all well and beyond doubt entirely independent of their parents on August 3rd. I had previously written to my wife for further details as to Chats' change of plumage.—G.A.P.)

SUMMARY.

Pied Chat started building May 22nd. No eggs 26th. Four or five eggs 30th. Hatched June 11th, still in nest 24th, two out 26th, third probably same date but three only noted July 1st, beginning to feed 7th, practically independent 15th, still alive and well August 3rd, quite independent.

Tailor Birds (second attempt) building on same date last young died, May 28th, almost finished 30th, three eggs June 3rd, 1 young just hatched 16th, noted 2 young, 1 egg in nest on 24th, only 1 young on 28th, out 30th, returning to nest at night, out for good July 3rd, started feeding July 16th, practically independent 15th. Still alive and well August 3rd.—G.A.P.

(To be continued).

Mesopotamian Birds.

REPRINTED FROM "THE TIMES," CUTTING SENT BY REV. G. H. RAYNOR, M.A.

NOTES OF A NATURALIST.

A few notes of the birds which I saw while serving in Mesopotamia may be of interest to naturalists and others. At Basrah, at the end of February, my attention was caught by the Kites and Buzzards hanging over the palm-groves. A Black Crow, exactly like the English Rook except that it had no wattle above the beak, and a large Grey Crow visited the camp, and I saw a flock of six Hoopoes among the palms. On the way up the Tigris early in March, the Greater Kingfisher was seen in large numbers, a bold and noisy bird, pied with a slight crest which it raises when alarmed. I saw also several species of the extraordinarily interesting *Limicolae*. At Orah, where we spent two days and nights ashore by the Wadi, I noticed, besides White-throats and Tree Sparrows, two distinct species of Gull—a bird like the Ivory Gull and the Black-headed Gull, which may be found nesting in the marshes hundreds of miles inland. Some of these were getting up their spring plumage, having already blue-black heads and blood-red beaks and feet. At Sheikh Saad, about March 11, a pleasing sight was the harriers hunting for their prey, flying just above the ground with their long narrow wings and long tails (dark brown to bluish grey, male and female), then circling round with a perfect gliding motion and but little movement of the wings, and then suddenly moving off with another rapid glide. (It was at Sheikh Saad, also, that at the end of June, I saw a Flamingo, flying low).

On March 20 migratory birds were first observed at Orah; Sand Grouse in thousands flying from south-east to north-west; Storks circling round and round till they disappeared northward at a tremendous height, and fascinating little flocks of yellow, pied, white, and blue-headed Wagtails. These were extraordinarily tame, and walked about close to mules and men. As we moved up to lake Falah-y-Iish, close to the marsh of the Suwik-Ish lake, hundreds of Coots were feeding on the tender grass shoots by the lakeside; and I saw also many Tern. Chats, something like the desert chat, hopped about on the top of the vacated trenches; and as I walked round one of the trenches, which had become full of water, a beautiful little Kingfisher, apparently rather smaller and darker than our English species, darted along in front of me. Many Quail were flushed here; the black Partridge started calling, and a pair of Stone-Curlews allowed me to get close to them. On April 15 I found near the Aba-Roman Mounds a crested Lark's nest with four eggs. Bee-eaters were plentiful; and on April 18 I had a good sight of a large Night-Jar, chocolate brown with darker bars. At Biet-ais-Essem in the third week in April, Sand Grouse were still numerous and flying high, but were paired. One that had been wounded in the wing was captured and proved to be the painted Sand-grouse. On May 8, down at the Narrows, we found the nest of a Warbler, which is very like the Nightingale, except for a white bar across the centre of the fan of the tail, which it flirts well over its back. The nest was built on the ground in the middle of a small shrub, and had four eggs like those of a Pied Wagtail. Here, too, was found the nest of a tiny long-tailed Warbler (the size of a Gold Crest) with young. The nest (the size of a dormouse's nest) was woven with cobwebs to twigs of the bush, and was made of dry grass and dome-shaped, with an entrance near the top.

On May 18 I dug out the nest of a Bee-eater in the side of one of the Macon Mounds, close to the top. The hole ran with a slight slope straight back and down into the mound for 6ft., and then ended in an oval chamber about 5in. in diameter, which was at a depth of 3ft. from the surface. In the nest, which was just the soft loamy soil at the end of the hole, were two white round eggs, a little bigger than a kingfisher's, transparent, and highly polished. From later observations I judged the clutch to be four or five. About May 27, five miles south-south-east of the Mounds, not far from the Jujailah redoubt and Sinn-Atbar, I found three nests of the sand grouse, each containing three eggs in an advanced state of incubation, proving that this bird stays in the plains to nest and does not, as I thought, return to the hills. The eggs were laid in a slight hollow, devoid of any lining except a few pieces of straw. The nest suggested that of a bird belonging to the *Limicolae*, but the eggs were of a long oval shape at both ends, and buff in ground, spotted with large and small spots of light brown and reddish brown, with underlying markings of purple grey.

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The Endurance of Birds

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

(Continued from page 218).

CONURES: I have kept the Black-headed (*C. nenday*), Cactus (*C. cactorum*), Golden-crowned (*C. aureus*), White-eared (*Pyrrhura leucotis*), and Jendaya (*C. jendaya*). Of the above I have possessed odd males or single pairs only, and with the exception of the last named parted with them after retaining them for periods of from two to four years. I only got as far as eggs with the Golden-crowned and Cactus. I found them all indifferent to the worst weather our winters were capable of inflicting upon them. I also found them rather quarrelsome and interfering with other Parrakeets, and without exception they are most excellent wood cutters.

CORDON BLEU: For many years I did not keep these charming birds owing to the reputation they bore for delicacy and from the desire to have no part in encouraging the importation of a species which so speedily died in large numbers after reaching our shores. I first kept them, owing to the kind gift of Dr. E. Hopkinson, of several pairs which he had personally brought over, when coming home on leave, I found no difficulty in establishing these and two pairs bred the same season in a roomy, naturally planted aviary. But I lost most of the young and several of the old birds too in experimenting with them during the winter—the result of my experience is: that during mild, but wet muggy winters those left out invariably die, but that during a cold but dry winter under similar conditions the majority survive and go to nest at the first sign of spring weather the following season. I have had others since, which have confirmed the above experience. Their longevity in the aviary varied from one to six years—the average of twenty specimens being 4.32 years.

COW-BIRD. BAY-WINGED.—Have had but one pair of this species, which lived with me five years—during their fourth year with me an open cup-shaped nest was built in a faggot of birch twigs, of coarse and fine grass on a base of rootlets and twigs; three eggs were laid, but after they had been incubated for ten days the nest and eggs were destroyed by a Virginian Cardinal. Two of the eggs contained well formed chicks, the third was infertile. They made no further attempt at nesting, both dying in the autumn of the following year. I found them quite hardy out of doors all the year round.

COWBIRD. SILKY.—I have possessed several pairs, as well as odd males at different times. And speaking of them as a whole they have passed through our worst winters out of doors without apparent discomfort. I have a cock at the present time, which has been with me six years and still looks quite youthful; at the same time I must say my hens have not been long-lived (three years being the longest period), speaking of three specimens two died in mid-winter (not wasted at all and in good feather), the other in the midst of a tropical summer—in the two former cases the cause of death undoubtedly was exposure from sleeping out during spells of severe frost, and in the latter case heat apoplexy ended her career This species is parasatic, but the first pair I had, finding no suitable nest in which to deposit their eggs, actually gathered together a mass of tufts and grass in a log nest, provided for Parrakeets, and deposited therein two eggs, but made no attempt to incubate, which would be rather what one would expect of them. This species has deposited eggs in the nests of Cardinals, Blackbirds, and Thrushes in Mr. Willford's aviary, but no young have been fully reared.

CUTTHROAT: These birds are very variable, I have had three pairs which have lived with me over eight years each, and others which have only lived two, three, four or five years. I have found them rather prolific breeders, though some pairs are so eager to go to nest again that they desert the partly fledged young, and build again, often doing this right up to the end of the season, though they usually rear the last brood successfully. This was the first species of foreign bird I bred in captivity, so a pair is usually to be found in one of my aviaries. It is quite ready to mate with its near relative, the Red-headed Finch, failing a mate of its own kind, and the resulting hybrids are usually very handsome Some pairs are very meddlesome, and prefer to steal nesting material from other birds' nests to foraging on their own account, or visiting the bundles provided for them in the aviary. I have not found them quarrelsome; at the same time they are quite able to, and do defend their nests against birds much larger than themselves—for this trait I certainly have more admiration than blame.

DHYAL BIRD: I have only possessed two males of this species, they are charming aviary birds, among a collection of largish birds, and can be left out all the year round, providing they have a good shelter which they can retire to at will. I find they usually roost indoors at night, both summer and winter, and they usually seek the shelter during a stormy period at any time. At the same time, on wet retentive soils I consider it safest to take them indoors between November 1st and April 30th.

Dove. Aurita : Have only possessed one pair, which I only kept for three years, and as they showed no signs of going to nest, I made exchange of them with an avicultural friend for other species.

Dove, Australian crested. : These are charming and long-lived birds, though some pairs are a little difficult to establish. They are fairly prolific breeders, but after rearing two broods, I parted with all of them, owing to them being rather large, for my, then, limited accommodation.

Dove. Bar-Shouldered. I procured a young pair of new arrivals of this species, they proved to be two males, and also very quarrelsome indeed to the other Doves in the aviary, so I took an early opportunity of getting rid of them.

Dove, Barbary, Turtle.—These are too well known to be worth space, they are long-lived and as hardy and prolific as domestic Pigeons, but really I only kept them as foster parents to incubate the eggs of rare species of Doves, some of whom make very indifferent parents in captivity

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Editorial.

A Success and a Disaster : Mrs. Stanley Gardiner (Cambridge), reports the successful rearing of two broods of Sydney Waxbills (*A. temporalis*), but after they were all independent of their parents, all the young except one, also some other birds, were found lying dead in the flight, mostly with one leg pulled right out from the socket. Owls of some species were undoubtedly the culprits, most probably Little Owls. The wire netting of flight is $\frac{3}{8}$ inch mesh. An outer course of one inch mesh netting, six inches distant from the small mesh netting, would make the aviary secure from owls or other similar vermin. It is most disheartening to succeed and then to lose the young birds so tragically. We congratulate our member on her success; not many Sydneys are bred in captivity, and also sympathise with her *re* the sad tragedy.

Breeding Bramble-Finches : Mr. W. E. Suggitt (now at the front) reports that in his brother's (Mr. R. Suggit) aviary, a fair number of the freely imported species were successfully reared this past season, also that three young Bramblings have been fully reared. He promises a detailed account as soon as possible. We should be greatly obliged if any member or reader, knowing of any previous instance of the successful rearing of Bramblefinches in captivity in the British Isles would send details.

ERRATA: The title plate opposite page 261 should read, Nest of Red-shouldered Whydah, with eggs of Red-collared Whydah.

Page 275, line 17, for "Mulein" read Mullein.

A RETROSPECT: In these times a somewhat unpleasant and thankless task. However, we are pleased to say that, considering "the times," the year's work has not been an unfavourable one.

The current volume of "Bird Notes" though less bulky than some of its immediate predecessors, will bear comparison with them, and not suffer thereby.

As regards numbers, the decrease, if any, will be small indeed—there have been comparatively few withdrawals,— and our losses, so far, from casualties at the front, are not numerous, though very many of our members are with the colours. The influx of new members has exceeded anticipations, and we trust that all members will realise their responsibility to assist the Council and Officers, by making the Club and its objects known to all bird-keepers, so that the Club Journal "BIRD NOTES," may be thoroughly representative of Aviculture in all its branches.

Perhaps the worst feature of the year is, that there are quite a number of unpaid subscriptions, and where income barely covers expenditure, this creates rather a difficult position for those bearing the burden of office. We should add, however, in justice to the greater portion of those in default that it arises from their being called to serve their king and country, and that at some later date these will be made good. We ask the support and help of all those of our members who are not called to serve, and who are prospering in these times, as many are to assist those who willingly give their time to make our Society successful and representative, by helping the Illustration and Deficit Fund, by sending copy for the Journal, and by the prompt payment of their subscriptions.

We sorrow for those members who have given their lives upon the battlefield in their country's cause ; their names, no longer on our roll, are registered upon the imperishable roll of the honoured, never forgotten while their country lasts.

◆

Beautiful Birds.

I.

Ye birds that fly through the fields of air,
What lessons of wisdom and truth ye bear!
Ye would teach our souls from the earth to rise,
Ye would bid us all grovelling scenes despise,
Ye would tell us that all its pursuits are vain.
That pleasure is toil, ambition is pain,
That its bliss is touched with a poisoning leaven,
Ye would teach us to fix our aim in heaven.

II.

Beautiful birds of lightsome wing,
Bright creatures that come with the voice of spring,
We see you arrayed in the hues of morn,
Yet ye dream not of pride, and ye wist not of scorn;
Though rainbow splendour around you glows,
Ye vaunt not the beauty which nature bestows;
Oh: what a lesson for glory are ye,
How ye preach the grace of humility!

III.

Swift birds that skim o'er the stormy deep,
Who steadily onward your journey keep,
Who neither for rest nor for slumber stay,
But press still forward by night or day,
As in your unwearying course ye fly
Beneath the clear and unclouded sky,
Oh! may we without delay, like you,
The path of duty and right pursue!

IV.

Sweet birds that breathe the spirit of song,
And surround heaven's gate in melodious throng,
Who rise with the earliest beams of day,
Your morning tribute of thanks to pay,
You remind us that we should likewise raise
The voice of devotion and song of praise!
There's something about you that points on high,
Ye beautiful tenants of earth and sky!

--C. W. THOMPSON.

◆

Post Mortem Reports

CUTTHROAT (♀). (Lieut. W. R. Batty, Southport). The cause of death was rupture of the left auricle of the heart, setting up haemorrhage.

BLUE TIT. (Miss Clara Bowring, Ascot).. Cause of death, pneumonia. STRIATED FINCH: Cause of death fatty degeneration of the liver.

BIRD (?). (Mrs. Alice M. Cook, Kilburn). Cause of death, chronic pneumonia.

BENGAL PITTA (♂). (Capt. John S. Reeve, Caterham, Surrey). Cause of death, cardiac failure. The heart was affected with fatty degeneration

CORDON BLEU. (G. E. Haggie, Oxford). Cause of death, rupture of the liver.

GOLDFINCH-BULLFINCH CROSS. (J. Goodchild, Suffolk). Cause of death, pneumonia.

YOUNG COCKATIEL. (Miss L. Sturtin Johnson, Hastings). Cause of death, acute pneumonia.

Answered by Post: James Yelland; Lady Kathleen Pilkington.

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

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JANUARY 1916.

The Foreign Bird Club.

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The Lady Dunleath.

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Hon. Veterinary Surgeon:

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London, W.

Hon. Solicitor:

H. R. Fillmer, Church Street, Brighton.

Hon. Photographer:

H. Willford, Upland View, Havenstreet, Ryde

Roll of Members.

Honorary Member.

FILLMER, H. R., (*Founder*), Brendon, 22, Harrington Road, Brighton.

◆

ACTON, G. H., Bytham, Kidmore Road, Caversham, Reading. (February, 1914).

ADAMS, A. W., 118, Northampton Road, Market Harborough. (May, 1912).

ALDERSON, Miss R., Park House, Worksop. (March, 1909).

ALLAN, J. W., Bondgate, Alnwick. (April, 1911).

ALMOND, The Rev. F., Dormant. (February, 1906).

ALT, Mrs. M., 28, Melrose Gardens, Hammersmith, London, W. (April, 1914).

AMES, Mrs. HOBART, North Easton, Massachusetts, U.S.A. (March, 1913).

AMSLER, Dr. MAURICE, Eton Court House, High Street, Eton, Windsor. (March, 1909).

ANDERSON, J. H., 20, Hoghton Street, Southport. (February, 1914).

ANDREWS, F. J., Gordon House, Woodbridge. (December, 1911).

ANNINGSON, Mrs., Walt-ham-sal, Barton Road, Cambridge. (December, 1901).

APPLEBY, K. A., Springfield, Egerton Road, Lahore, Punjab, India. (October, 1910).

ARMSTRONG, CHARLES, The Grove, Cambridge. (August, 1913).

ARMSTRONG, Mrs. A. M., Newton Purcell Rectory, Buckingham. (November, 1915).

ARNOLD, R., Tower House, Leigham Court Road, Streatham, London, S.W. (March, 1912).

ARNOTT, PETER, Grant Street, Alloa. (December, 1913).

ARRIGHI, L. J., Harrison View, Watson Crescent, Edinburgh. (March, 1908).

ASTON, Capt. S. WILFRED, Manor House, Trensham, Farnham. (September, 1915).

ATTWELL, HAROLD E., Cassia Grove, Halfway Tree, P.O., Kingston, Jamaica, B.W.I. (March, 1910).

AUSTIN, W. E. Wandsworth Public Libraries, Allfarthing Lane, Wandsworth, London, S.W. (April, 1909).

BADDELEY, A., 21, Derby Street, Hulme, Manchester. (July, 1912).

BAILY, W. SHORE, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts. (June, 1909).

BAINBRIDGE, W. A., Hazlewood, Thorpe, Chertsey. (September, 1912).

BAKER, Miss M. E., The Elms, Mount Sorrel, Loughborough. (September, 1902).

BAKER, Mrs. H. G., Brookfields House, Swinton, Yorks. (December, 1914).

BAMFORD, WM., The Coppice, Werneth, Oldham. (June, 1904).

BAMPFYLDE, The Hon. Mrs., Whitechapel Manor, South Molton, North Devon. (July, 1911).

BARLOW-MASSICKS, Mrs. C., Dormant. (November, 1911).

BARNABY, Miss ALISON. Oak Lodge, Bitterne, Southampton. (August, 1912).

BARNARD, T. T., Kempston Hoo, Bedford. (July, 1915).

BATTY, Lieut. W. R., 15, Alexander Road, Southport. (October, 1915).
BEATY, S., Strathnarn, Elm Grove, Alderley Edge, Manchester. (March, 1908).
BEAZOR, Rev. J. T. A. LOVELL, The Nest, Bicclescombe Park, Ilfracombe. (April, 1911).
BEEBE, C. W., Curator of Ornithology, New York Zoological Park, New York City, U.S.A. (July, 1911).
BENTLEY, ERNEST E., St. Mary's Lodge, Louth. (March, 1914).
BLISS, H. E., Church Street, Middleburg, Cape Colony, S. Africa. (January, 1903).
BOTTING, H., 17, Eversfield Road, Reigate. (December, 1908).
BOURKE, HON. Mrs. GWENDOLEN, Hitcham Vale, Taplow, Maidenhead, and 75, Gloucester Place, Portman Square, London, W. (December, 1909).
BOUSFIELD, Miss M., Avon Court, Southbourne Road, Bournemouth. (January, 1908).
BOWERMAN, F., 12, Wellington Street, Swindon. (September, 1914).
BOWRING, Miss CLARA, The Holly House, Broadway, Worcestershire. (July, 1914).
BOYD, Miss M., Webbery, Bideford. (February, 1914).
BOYD, HAROLD, Box 374, Ketowna, Brit. Columbia, Canada. (April, 1903).
BRANFOOT, B., Dormant. (November, 1912).
BRIGHT, HERBERT, Lynton, Eaton Road, Cressington Park, Liverpool. (October, 1911)
BROOK E. J., F.Z.S., Hoddam Castle, Ecclefechan. (March, 1908).
BROWN, Mrs. C., Dormant. (May, 1910).
BROWNING, W. H., 16, Cooper Square, New York, U.S.A. (February, 1910).
BROWNE, Capt. A. E., Belmont, Murree, Punjab, India. (March, 1912).
BRUCE, Miss A., Chevet Park, Wakefield. (March, 1909).
BUFTON, REGINALD P., Caerhyn, Llandrindod Wells. (January, 1913).
BURGESS, Mrs., Kingsweir, 52, Clarendon Road, Redlands, Bristol. (September, 1915)
BURNHAM, JOHN B., President A.G.P. and P. Ass., Trinity Buildings, 111, Broadway, New York, U.S.A. (March, 1913).
BUSH, W., The County Bor. of Newport School of Art, Clarence Street, Newport, Mon. (May, 1909).

CALVERT, Mrs. H., The Ridge, Kasuli, Punjab, India. (July, 1915).
CAMPS, H. T. T., F.Z.S., Linden House, Haddenham, Ely. (Orig. Mem.).
CAPERN, F., Lewin's Mead, Bristol. (October, 1907).
CARR, F. J., St. Aidan's, Alnwick. (April, 1914).
CARR, J. T., Blythewood, Deramore Drive, Malone Road, Belfast. (September, 1912).
CARTWRIGHT, Mrs. E., Bretton Lodge, Wakefield. (January, 1912).
CASTLE GANT, Mrs. A., Willow Hyrst, Hellingly, Sussex. (June, 1915).
CHAMBERLAIN, C., The Aviary, 20, Perkin Street, Port Elizabeth, Cape Province, S. Africa. (June, 1914).
CHANNING-PEARCE, J., M.D., etc., Montague House, Ramsgate. (January, 1916).
CHAPLIN, Mrs. DRUMMOND, Government House, Salisbury, Rhodesia. (July, 1914).
CHAPLIN, E. W., The Firs, Great Amwell, Ware. (Sept., 1903).
CHARLES, J., Stone House, Doncaster. (February, 1914).

CHARLESWORTH, Miss AUDRY, Marnhull Rectory, Sturminster Newton, Dorset. (July, 1914).

CHATTERTON, Mrs., 11, Fairfield Road, Crouch End, London, N. (January, 1915).

CHAWNER, Miss E. F. Forest Bank, Lyndhurst, Hants. (July, 1910).

CHICK, HERBERT J., 39A, Radford Road, Nottingham. (March, 1914).

CHRISTIE, Mrs G., Newton House, Elgin. (January, 1913).

CLARE, Miss LYDIA, The Hollies, 194, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, London, S.W. (March, 1910).

CLARK, W. G., Hummers Knott, Windsor Road, Slough. (January, 1915).

CLARKE, S., Inces, Scaynes Hill, Hayward's Heath. (August, 1911).

CLIFTON, Lord, Dormant. (October: 1905).

COLTON, R., 9, Birkendale Road, Sheffield. (February, 1913).

CONNELL, Mrs. KNATCHBULL, The Orchard, Brockenhurst, Hants. (July, 1912).

CONSTABLE, Rev. W. J., Uppingham. (February, 1912).

CROKER, Chas. E., Burrow Inch, Lower Bourne, Farnham. (October, 1911).

CRONKSHAW, J., 193, Manchester Street, Accrington. (Nov., 1901).

CROSS, R., Northumberland Park, Tottenham, London, N. (January, 1914).

CROW, C. F., Lindsey Bank House, Grimsby. (October, 1915).

CROYSDALE, Mrs. B., Hawke House, Sunbury-on-Thames. (January, 1908).

CURRIE, J., 128, Willowbrae Road, Edinburgh. (August, 1913).

CUSHNY, Charles, c/o. Messrs. Neish, Howell, and Haldane, 47, Watling Street, St. Paul's, E.C. (Orig. Mem.).

DARRELL, Dr. H. W., Adelaide House, All Saints' Green, Norwich. (September, 1908).

DAVIDSON, Mrs., Yew Tree Cottage, Bitterne, Southampton. (April, 1911).

DAVIES, Mrs. M. H., Daresbury Hall, near Warrington. (January, 1914).

DAWSON-SMITH, F., Nash Rectory, Stony Stratford, Bucks. (March, 1912).

DELL, C. E., 12, High Street, Harlesden, London, N.W. (January, 1914).

DENNIS, Mrs. HAROLD, St. Leonard's Park, Horsham. (January, 1904).

DEWAR, D., I.C.S., F.Z.S., 33, Sheepcote Road, Harrow. (June, 1907).

DEWAR, J. F., 2, St. Patrick's Square, Edinburgh. (Orig. Mem.).

DE YARBURG-BATESON, The Hon. LILLA, Heslington, York. (June, 1903).

DITCHFIELD, F., 37, Nugget Street, Oldham. (April, 1914).

DOBBIE, J., Waverley Works, Leith, Edinburgh. (April, 1906).

DOBSON, W. B. C., Bindown, Hampton Wick. (April, 1914).

DRUMMOND, Miss, Mains of Megginch, Errol, Perthshire. (November, 1907).

DUNKLEY, Mrs. H. F., Prome, Burma, India. (February, 1915).

DUNLEATH, The Lady, Ballywalter Park, Ballywalter, co. Down. (November, 1901).

DUTTON, the Hon. and Rev. Canon, Bibury Vicarage, Fairford, Glos. (May, 1906)

DYOTT, Capt. R. A., Freeford, Lichfield. (November, 1912).

EARLE, J. HUDSON, Newgate House, Cottingham, Hull. March, 1914).

EBRILL, WM., 14, Victoria Terrace, Limerick. (April, 1906).

EDMUNDS, W., Coombe Farm, Langton Matravers, Wareham. (November, 1909).

ELMS, E. F. M., Rosebank Cottage, Carshalton Road, Sutton, Surrey. (June, 1910).

EZRA, A., F.Z.S., 110, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London. (January, 1911).

EZRA, D., 3, Kyd Street, Calcutta, India. (August, 1912).

FASEY, WILLIAM R., The Oaks, Holly Bush Hill, Snaresbrook, N.E. (January, 1903).

FERRAR, B. B., M.D., F.Z.S., Superintendent, the Royal Zoological Society's Gardens, Phœnix Park, Dublin. (December, 1912).

FISHER, W. H., The Bush Hotel, Farnham. (May, 1908).

FISHER-ROWE, H. M., St. Leonard's Grange, Beaulieu, Brockenhurst, Hants. (January, 1911).

FITZWILLIAM-HALL, Mrs. D., Trevu, Camborne, Cornwall. (Feb., 1915).

FLANNERY, M. J., Barrack Street, Nenagh. (January, 1909).

FLOWER, Capt. S. S., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Keedah House, Zoological Gardens, Gizeh, Egypt. (March, 1909).

FLOWER, Mrs. STANLEY, Longfield, Tring, Herts. (July, 1910).

FORSTER, W. L., Smithfield, Orange Free State, S. Africa. (May, 1914).

FOSTER, T., Fairlight, Babbacombe, Devon. (March, 1914).

FOSTER, Miss E. M., 35, High Street, Huntingdon. (January, 1909).

FOWLER-WARD, Dr. F., 10, Berners Street, Ipswich. (Oct., 1913).

FREELAND, SCOTT, Hill Rise, Quarry Hill, Tonbridge. (July, 1912).

FREVILLE, Miss M. N. de, Quennevais House, Jersey. (January, 1916).

FROST, W. J. C., 13, Fairlawn Avenue, Chiswick Park, London, W. (August, 1913).

FROSTICK, J., 303, High Road, Streatham, London, S.W. (Dec., 1909).

GALLOWAY, Mrs. E., Fernville, Fortis Green Road, East Finchley, London, N. (January, 1908).

GALLOWAY, P. F. M., 22, Rectory Road, Caversham, Reading. (November, 1907).

GARDINER, Mrs. STANLEY, Bredon House, Selwyn Gardens, Cambridge. (January, 1913).

GERRARD, JOHN, M.B.O.U., Worsley, Manchester. (June, 1905).

GERRARD, Miss M., 11, Lung Arno, Serristori, Florence, Italy. (June, 1914).

GODRY, EDOUARD, Dormant. (January, 1912).

GOODACRE, HUGH, Ullesthorpe, Lutterworth. (May, 1912).

GOODCHILD, H., M.B.O.U., 66, Gloucester Road, Regent's Park, London, N.W. (July, 1903).

GOODCHILD, J., Clare, Suffolk. (January, 1913).

GOODFELLOW, W., The Poplars, Kettering. (October, 1908).

GORRINGE, The Rev. REGINALD, Manston Rectory, Sturminster Newton, Dorset. (December, 1902).

GOSSE, Dr. PHILIP, M.B.O.U., Curtlemead, Beaulieu, Brockenhurst, Hants. (April, 1910).

GOURLAY, H., Penshurst, Shortheath, Farnham, Surrey. (November, 1907).

GRAHAM, JOHN, Rainbow Hotel, Kendal. (February, 1911).

GRAY, H., M.R.C.V.S. (*Hon. Veterinary Surgeon*), 23, Upper Phillimore Place, Kensington, London, W. (May, 1906).

GREENALL, Lady, Walton Hall, near Warrington. (September, 1915).
GREENALL, Miss SUSAN, The Manor, Carlton Scroop, Grantham. (May, 1914).
GREEVEN, Miss M., c/o. Mrs. Green, 41, Clanricarde Gardens, Notting Hill Gate, London, W. (October, 1907).
GROSSMITH, J. L., The Grange, Bickley, Kent. (January, 1913).
GURNEY, G. H., Keswick Hall, Norwich. (June, 1913).

HAGGIE, G. E., B.A., Brumcombe, Foxcombe Hill, Oxford. (Feb., 1910).
HAHN, Countess C. V., 192, Walpole Road, Wimbledon, London, S.W. (August, 1910).
HALL, Miss A. F., 26, Adelaide Road, Regent's Park, London, N.W.; and Denholme, Hayling Island, Havant. (September, 1911).
HALE, CLINTON B., Pedrogosa and Laguna, North West Corner, Santa Barbara, California, U.S.A. (April, 1911).
HARCOURT, The Rt. Hon. LEWIS, P.C., 14, Berkeley Square, London, W. (April, 1914).
HARPER, E. W., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., 6, Ashburnham Road, Bedford. (October, 1907).
HARRIS, CHAS., 114, Bethnal Green Road, London, N.E. (April, 1910).
HARTLEY, Mrs. E. A., Lynchfield, Bishop's Lydeard, Taunton. (September, 1907).
HARVEY, P. T., 55, St. Albans Road, Seven Kings, Essex. (June, 1915).
HATCHELL, D. G., c/o. Parry and Co., Madras, India. (December, 1911).
HAWKE, The Hon. M. C., c/o Miss B. Harrison, Manor House, Otton, Tadcaster. (November, 1902).
HAWKINS, J. E., Belvedere, Streetley Lane, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield. (April, 1915).
HAWKINS, L. W., Estrilda, New Clive Road, West Dulwich. (Original Member).
HEBB, T., Brooklea, The Downs, Luton. (August, 1912).
HENDERSON, Mrs. W. F., Moorfield, Upper Claremont, Newcastle-on-Tyne. (November, 1908).
HENDERSON, J. ALEX., Dormant. (August, 1913).
HENSTOCK, J. H., Market Place, Ashbourne, Derbyshire. (March, 1907).
HERBERT, EDWARD GREVILLE, Bombay Burmah Trading Co., Bangkok, Siam, and The Rectory, Hennington Abbot, St. Ives, Hunts. (January, 1915).
HETLEY, Dr. HENRY, Beaufort House, 114, Church Road, Norwood, S.E. (January, 1908).
HEWITT, F. W. G., The Old Hall, Weelsby, Grimsby. (April, 1909).
HINCKS, Miss E. M., Baron's Down, Dulverton, Somerset. (December, 1904).
HODGKIN, Mrs., Sedbergh House, Kew Green, Surrey. (February, 1908).
HOLDEN, RALPH A., F.Z.S., 5, John Street, Bedford Row, London, W.C., and Harpenden, Herts. (July, 1911).
HOLLINS, Miss, Greyfriars, Preston. (February, 1906).
HOLLINS, Mrs., The Aviaries, Coppice Drive, Harrogate. (May, 1903).
HOOPER, Miss G. M., Lansdown, West Derby, Liverpool. (February, 1915).
HOPKINSON, EMILUS, D.S.O., M.A., M.B., Oxon, South Bank, Bathhurst, Gambia, West Africa. (October, 1901).
HORSBRUGH, Lieut.-Col., B. R., F.Z.S., Tandridge Priory, Oxted, Surrey. (October, 1909).
HORTON, Miss M., Mascalls, Brentwood, Essex. (November, 1915).

HOUFTON, Miss K., Fountain Dale, Mansfield, Notts. (April, 1914).

HOULTON, CHARLES, Laburnum House, Denton's Green, St. Helens. (November, 1901).

HOWE, FRANK, 51, Thomas Street, Wellingborough. (February, 1902).

HUBBARD, Mrs. D. L., Dormant. (January, 1905).

HUME, JAMES, Hepscott, Morpeth. (June, 1903).

HUMPHRYS, RUSSELL, Present address unknown. (July, 1902).

HURNDALL, Mrs. R., Ditton Hill Lodge, Ditton Hill, Surbiton, Surrey. (April, 1913).

HYDE, WALTER, Kempton Park, Sunbury-on-Thames. (June, 1915).

ISAAC, CHAS., Brockley House, Slough. (March, 1911).

JAMRACH, A. E., 180, St. George's Street, London, E. (July, 1909).

JARDINE, J., Castle Milk, Lockerbie, N.B. (August, 1913).

JENKS, H., 51, Ebury Street, London, S.W (August, 1913).

JOHNSON, Miss L., STURTON, Orotava House, Ore, Hastings. (September, 1910).

JOHNSON, Major F., Melrose, Wilbury Road, Hove, Brighton. (August, 1911).

JONES, W. YARWORTH, Villa d'Arno, Kingston-on-Thames. (Aug., 1915).

KELSON G. MORTIMER, Home Cottage, Sunbury-on-Thames. (June, 1913).

KENNEDY, Capt. G., c/o. Mrs. Kennedy, 7, Albion Road, Sutton, Surrey. (May, 1908).

KENWORTHY, J. M., Meadowcroft, Windermere. (June, 1909).

KING, FRANK, Dormant. (March, 1909).

KING, H. T., 11, Elm Tree Avenue, West Bridgford, Nottingham. (April, 1914).

KITE, E. BAGSHOT, Haines Hill House, Taunton. (February, 1912).

KNOBEL, Miss E. MAUD, 32, Tavistock Square, London, W.C. (December, 1911).

KOMYAKOFF, ALEXIS, Novinsky Boulevard, 109, Moscow, Russia. (Dec., 1912).

LAMB, E. J., Alverstone, Thetford Road, New Malden, Surrey. (May, 1906).

LEACH, C. F., Vale Lodge, Leatherhead. (July, 1914).

LEE, Mrs. E. D., Hartwell House, Aylesbury. (September, 1910).

LEGH, DE LEGH, Dr. H., Redcar. (April, 1911).

LILFORD, The LORD, Lilford Hall, Oundle, Northants. (January, 1914).

LONGDEN, Mrs. D. A. S., Dormant. (February, 1911).

LONGDON, Mrs. C. A , Arreton, Epsom Road, Guildford (February, 1909)

LOVELL-KEAYS, Dr. L. F., F.Z.S., Park Lodge, East Hoathly, Halland, Sussex. (March, 1913).

LOW, G. E., 14, Royal Terrace East, Kingstown. (May, 1911).

LOWE, A. J. C., Present address unknown (January, 1912).

LUCAS, Miss EMMA, Bramblehurst, East Grinstead, Sussex. (Sept., 1913).

LUCAS, N. S., M.B., F.Z.S., 19, Westbourne Terrace, Hyde Park, London, W. (January, 1914).

LYNAM, C. C., M.A., Bardswell Road, Oxford. (September, 1913).

LYTHGOE, G. W. F., Cumlyn, Cromwell Road, Stretford, Manchester.

McCULLOUGH, JOHN, Dormant. (January, 1914).

McDONAGH, J. E. R., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., F.Z.S., L.L.S., 4, Wimpole Street, London, W. (January, 1903).

McDONALD, Miss, Meadow Bank, Hollington Park, St. Leonards-on-Sea. (April, 1911).

McDONALD, D. D., Atholl Arms Hotel, Blair Atholl, N.B. (Oct., 1915).

MALDEN, Viscountess EVELINE, Great Bookham, Leatherhead. (August, 1909).

MALLETT, E. A., M.A., Great Wishford, Salisbury. (September, 1911).

MANNERING R., Knoll Cottage, Noah Hill, Essex. (February, 1912).

MAPPIN, STANLEY, 12, Albert Hall Mansions, Kensington Gore, South Kensington, London, S.W. (February, 1911).

MARMONT, W. B., The Firs, Amberley, Stroud, Glos. (October, 1908).

MARSDEN, J., Thornhurst, Pewit Park, Harrogate. (March, 1911).

MASON, D., The Maisonette, Broadstairs. (April, 1914).

MASTER, G., M.B., B.C., 86, Guildhall Street, Bury St. Edmunds. (Nov., 1903).

MAXWELL-JACKSON, Miss M., Cowhill, Rutland Road, Harrogate. (January, 1913).

MAXWELL, C. T., 1, Shardcroft Aven, Herne Hill, S.E. (December, 1908).

MEADOWS, J. C. W., 19, Cardiff Road, Luton. (February, 1908).

MEAKIN, H., 16, Shaftesbury Road, Luton. (January, 1904).

MILLER, Mrs K. LESLIE, Dormant. (January, 1913).

MILLSUM, O., The Firs, Westwood, Margate. (July, 1907).

MINCHIN, Mr., The Zoo, Adelaide, Australia. (July, 1914).

MITCHELL, H., Haskells, Lyndhurst, Hants. (September, 1903).

MONEY, Sir L. G. CHIOZZA, M.P., The Grey House, Hampstead Lane, London, N. (October, 1910).

MONTAGUE, G. R., 63, Croxted Road, Dulwich, S.E. (February, 1909).

MONTGOMERY, W. O., c/o. Mrs. Hulse, Alexandra Road, Hornsea, Hull. (January, 1913).

MORRISON, The Hon. Mrs. McLAREN, Queen Anne's Mansions, St. James's Park, London, S.W. (November, 1906).

MORTIMER, Mrs. Wigmore, Holmwood, Dorking. (Original Member).

MUNDY, Miss SYBIL, Shipley Hall, Derby. (August, 1911).

MURTON, MARSHALL, Osborne Villas, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. (August, 1913).

NAYLOR, Mrs. F. M., "Vermont," Grappenhall, Warrington. (Oct., 1915).

NEWLEY, R. A., 24, Stockwell Green, London, S.W. (December, 1902).

NEWMAN, T. H., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Newlands, Harrowdene Road, Wembley, Middlesex. (July, 1903).

OAKEY, W., 34, High Street, Leicester. (Original Member).

OBERHOLSER, HARRY C., 1,444, Fairmont Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., U.S.A. (December, 1903).

O'DONNELL, O., Hyntle Place, Hintlesham, Ipswich. (August, 1912).

O'DONNELL, Major-Gen. H., C.B., D.S.O., Bannu, N.W.F.P., India. (October, 1913).

O'REILLY, NICHOLAS S., 111, Eastern Road, Kent Town, Brighton. (Orig. Member).

OGG, J. E., The Grove, Cockburnspath, Berwickshire. (February, 1913).

ONSLOW, The Countess of, Dormant. (April, 1913).

PAGE, W. T., F.Z.S., (*Hon. Editor*), Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey. (May, 1905).

PAINTER, V. KENYON, Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A. (November, 1910).
PARKIN, THOS., M.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Fairseat, High Wickham, Hastings. (May, 1914).
PATERSON, Rev. J. MAPLETOFT, Karachi, Sindh, India. (November, 1908).
PAUWELS ROBERT E., Everberg par Cortenberg, Brabant, Belgium. (September, 1909).
PENNANT Lady EDITH DOUGLAS, Soham House, Newmarket. (July, 1908).
PERCIVAL, W. G., Nanga, Chania Bridge, British East Africa. (January, 1915).
PERKINS, E., Chester Hill, Woodchester, Stroud, Gloucestershire. (Feb., 1903).
PERREAU, Major G. A., F.Z.S., 2-4 Gurkha Rifles, Bakloh, Punjab, India. (December, 1903)
PERREAU, Mrs. R. A. D., 11, Douglas Crescent Edinburgh. (September, 1908).
PERRING, C. S. R., Claremont Avenue, New Malden, Surrey. (October, 1902).
PHAIR, H. J., Broad Street, Alresford. (January, 1912).
PHILLIPS, E. R., 12, Waltham Terrace, Blackrock, Ireland. (Sep., 1915).
PICKARD, H. K., 298, West End Lane, Kilburn, London, N.W. (Oct., 1901).
PICKLES, W. H., Stonyhurst, Morecambe, Lancs. (May, 1904).
PIKE, L. G., F.Z.S., King Barrow, Wareham. (December, 1910).
PILKINGTON, Lady KATHLEEN, Chevet Park, Wakefield. (September, 1908).
POLTIMORE, Lady, Poltimore Park, Exeter. (August, 1911).
POND, Mrs. T., 171, Upper Parliament Street, Liverpool. (November, 1902).
POPE, Mrs., Howden, Tiverton, Devon. (February, 1914).
POWELL, Miss M. M., Hawthorn House, Oakhill Park, Old Swan, Liverpool. (May, 1914).
PUCK, OTTO, Darenth Lodge, Chingford, N.E. (May, 1912).
PULLAR, LAWRENCE, H. F., F.Z.S., Dunbarnie Cottage, Bridge of Earn, Perthshire. (October, 1913).

QUINCEY, R. de QUINCEY, Ingiewood, Chislehurst, Kent. (August, 1910).

RATHBORNE, H. B., Dreenan, Letter, Co. Fermanagh. (November, 1915).
RATTIGAN, G. E., "Fron-Felen," Caersws, Montgomeryshire. (March, 1909).
RAVEN, W. H., 239, Derby Road, Nottingham. (October, 1909).
RAYNOR, Rev. G. H., M.A., Hazeleigh Rectory, Maldon, Essex. (December, 1909).
READ, Mrs. W. H., Church Croft, Weston Park Road, Thames Ditton. (January, 1911).
REEVE, Capt. J. S., Glendaragh, Caterham, Surrey. (March, 1908).
RESTALL, J. A., 82, Cambridge Street, Birmingham. (November, 1903).
RICE, Capt. G., Clayquhat, Blairgowrie. (July, 1902).
RICKMAN, P., Brookmead, Windsor Road, Bray, Berks. (April, 1915).
ROBBINS, H., 37, New Oxford Street, London, W. (October, 1908).
ROBSON, J., 28, Camden Grove, Peckham, S.E. (December, 1909).
ROGERS, W. T., 21, Priory Villas, New Road, Brentwood. (October, 1907).

ROGERSON, Mrs., Fleurville, Cheltenham. (February, 1903).
ROTH, FRED G. R., Sherwood Place, Englewood, N.J., U.S.A. (Nov., 1908).
ROTHWELL, JAMES E., 153, Sewell Avenue, Brookline, Mass., U.S.A. (February, 1911).
ROUTH, Col. J. J., 2, Beechworth Villas, Cheltenham. (January, 1912).
ROW, C. H., Chapel House, Long Melford, Suffolk. (December, 1905).
RUMSEY, LACY, 23, Rua de Terpa Pinto, Villa Nova de Gaya, Oporto, Portugal. (October, 1911).
RYAN, G. E., (Bar.-at-law), Hintlesham Hall, Ipswich. (November, 1913).
RYAN, W. J. NORWOOD, St. John's, Beaufort Road, Kingston-on-Thames. (September, 1913).

SCHUYL, D. G., 12, Toe-Haringvlist, Rotterdam, Holland. (January, 1914).
SCOTT, Lieut. B. HAMILTON, Hamildean, Ipswich. (July, 1910).
SCOTT, A. H., Waterside Copse, Liphook, Hants. (October, 1915).
SCOTT, J. EASTON, M.B., Birdhurst, Woodcote Road, Wallington, Surrey. (March, 1908).
SCOTT, Mrs. J. EASTON, Birdhurst, Woodcote Road, Wallington, Surrey. (March, 1908).
SCOTT-MILLER, R., Greenoak Hill, Broomhouse, Glasgow. (May, 1913).
SEBAG-MONTEFIORE, Mrs., East Cliffe Lodge, Ramsgate. (May, 1914).
SEGUR, LE COMTE DE, 45, Avenue d'Jena, Paris, France. (April, 1914).
SHERLOCK, Rev. W. J. R., 159, Park Road, Barnsley. (January, 1916).
SHIPTON, A. J., 71, Cloudesdale Road, Balham, London, S.W. (April, 1913).
SICH, H. L., Corney House, Burlington Lane, Chiswick, London, W. (June, 1908).
SIDEBOTTOM, Mrs. E. HARROP, Etherow House, Hollingworth, Manchester. (February, 1908).
SILLS, ARTHUR, 260, Loughborough Road, Leicester. (January, 1911).
SIMPSON, R. E., 5, Christ Church Avenue, Armley, Leeds. (December, 1907).
SLADE, G. J., 34, Milton Road, Fitzhugh, Southampton. (February, 1915).
SMITH-RYLAND, Mrs., Barford Hill, Warwick. (April, 1909).
SMITH, J., Woodlands, Kendal. (January, 1910).
SMYTH, Miss ALFREDA, 40, Davenport Road, Catford, London, S.E. (January, 1911).
SNAREY, H., 21, Leamington Road, Blackburn. (March, 1911).
SOAMES, Rev. H. A., M.A., F.L.S., Lyncroft, Bromley, Kent. (Rejoins January, 1914).
SOMERS, Lieut. F. W., A.V.C., T.F., 66, Francis Street, Leeds. (January, 1907).
SOUTHCOMBE, S. L., Highlands, Ash, Martock, Somerset. (September, 1910).
SOUTHEY, Miss M. E., The Vicarage, Chiddingly, Halland, Sussex. (January, 1915).
SPEAKER, Mrs. ALICE, Gifford Lodge, Twickenham. (April, 1915).
SPRANKLING, E., Brookland Cottage, South Road, Taunton. (February, 1908).
SPRAWSON, Capt. E. C., R.A.M.C., 68, Southwood Lane, Highgate, London, N. (October, 1913).
STROSTON, Mrs., The Elm House, Nantwich. (January, 1911).

STEAVENSON, Mrs. PAGET, Cross Bank Hill, Hurwood-on-Tees, Darlington. (January, 1915).

STEED, B., 22, North Street, Sudbury, Suffolk. (May, 1914).

STEINSCHEN, W. E., The Bungalow, Contanchey, Guernsey. (February, 1914).

STEPHENS, A. J., Argyle Road, Ilford. (February, 1914).

STERCKMANS, Dr. C., Dormant. (August, 1910).

STEWART, B. T., Glenhurst, The Crosspaths, Radlett, Herts. (February, 1914).

STONEY, Mrs. STELLA, 38, Campden House Court, Kensington, London, W. (August, 1912).

STORLEY, Mrs. A., Summer Hill, Tarporley, Cheshire. (November, 1912).

STOTT, A. E., 15, East Parade, Leeds. (January, 1915).

STREET, E., The Poplars, Oatwoods, Anslow, Burton-on-Trent. (May, 1909).

STRICKLAND, E. A., 16, Alma Road, Windsor. (May, 1912).

STRONG, HERBERT, The Hollies, Beckenham Lane, Bromley, Kent. (April, 1913).

SUGGITT, W. E., Suggitt's Lane, Cleethorpes, Grimsby. (Jan., 1915).

SUGGITT, W. E., Suggitt's Lane, Cleethorpes, Grimsby. (Jan., 1915).

SUTCLIFFE, ALBERT, Fairholme, Welholme Road, Grimsby. (May, 1907).

SWAYNE, HENRY A., 29, Percy Place, Dublin. (January, 1913).

SWAYSLAND, W., Dormant. (Original Member)

SYKES, J., 16, Shorthope Street, Musselburgh. (January, 1912).

TAINTEGNIES, BARONNE LE CLEMENT DE, Cleveland, Minehead, Somerset. (August, 1913).

TAVISTOCK, The Marquis of, 19, Hanover Square, London, W. (January, 1913).

TEMPLE, W. R., Ormonde, Datchet, Windsor. (December, 1908).

TESCHEMAKER, W. E., B.A., Ringmore, Teignmouth. (March, 1907).

THOMASSET, B. C., F.Z.S., The Manor House, Ashmansworth, Newbury. (July, 1912).

THOMPSON, M., 4, William Street, Roslyn, Dunedin, New Zealand. (June, 1911).

THORBURN, Miss C. W., 99, Edge Lane, Liverpool. (March, 1910).

THORNILEY, PERCY W., Shooter's Hill, Wem, Shrewsbury. (May, 1913).

THWAITES, Dr. GILBERT B., 94, Beaconsfield Road, Brighton. (May, 1910).

TIDEY, J. W., Dormant. (January, 1912).

TILLEY, G. D. F., New York, Z.S., Darien, Connecticut, U.S.A. (January, 1913).

TOMASSI BALDELLI, LA COUNTESSA G., 4, Via Silvio, Pelico, Florence, Italy. (December, 1901).

TOMLINSON, MALCOLM R., Shepherd's House, Inveresk, Midlothian. (April, 1913)

TOWNSEND, S. M., (*Hon. Exhibitional Secretary*), 3, Swift Street, Fulham, S.W. (Original Member).

TRACY, Mrs. A. E., Thalassa, Shaldon, Teignmouth. (February, 1914).

TRAVERS, Mrs. JOHNSON, Fern Hill, Clonakilty, co. Cork. (December, 1903).

TRAVIS, Mrs., Pedmore Grange, Stourbridge. (January, 1911).

TRELOAR, Sir WM., Bart., Grange Mount, Norwood, S.E. (June, 1909).
TURNER, HERBERT J., Tremadoc, Keyberry Road, Newton Abbot. (February, 1915).
TURNER-TURNER, Mrs., Abbey Spring, Beaulieu, Brockenhurst, Hants. (November, 1910).
TYSON, C. R., 169, Sloane Street, Chelsea, London, S.W. (February, 1911).

URWICK, D. R., St. Cross Mill, Winchester. (March, 1913).

VALE, LEWIS, 8, Broadway, Woodford, London, N.E. (May, 1913).
VALENTINE, E., 7, Highfield, Workington. (December, 1911).
VILLIERS, Viscountess, C., Antwick's Manor, Letcombe Regis, Wantage. (November, 1912).
VOLLMAR, P., 8, George Street, Minories, London, E.C. (February, 1909).

WADDELL, Miss E. G. R. PEDDIE, 4, Great Stuart Street, Edinburgh. (February, 1909).
WADE, L. M., Oakhill Road, Ashstead, Surrey. (September, 1913).
WALL, Miss L. M., St. A., 12, Rosary Gardens, South Kensington, London, S.W. (December, 1907).
WARD, Hon. Mrs. SOMERSET, Greenmount, Newcastle, co. Down. (October, 1905).
WARDALE, H., Dormant. (May, 1903).
WAREN-WILLIAMS, H. E., Woodcote Lodge, Woodcote Road, Wallington, Surrey. (January, 1911).
WATSON, S., 37, Tithebarn Street, Preston. (September, 1910).
WATTS, RUDOLPH, Sunnyside, St. Peter's Road, Huntingdon. (November, 1906).
WEBB, Miss KATHERINE, Emery Down, Millington Road, Cambridge. (July, 1909).
WEBSTER, Lady, Powdermill House, Battle, Sussex. (February, 1911).
WEDGE, E., Kingscote, Trinity Road, Wood Green, London, N. (February, 1915).
WEIR, J., Douglas Cottage, Upper Ashley, New Milton, Hants. (December, 1912).
WESTACOTT, H., Wellington Hotel, Minehead, Somerset. (September, 1907).
WESTON, G. E., 42, Lewisham Road, Dartmouth Park, London, N.W. (July, 1908).
WETHEY, Mrs. R. E., Lehden, Coatham, Redcar. (July, 1911).
WHISTLER, HUGH F. P., Hissar, Punjab, India. (January, 1913).
WHITLEY, H., Primley Hill, Paignton, S. Devon. (January, 1916).
WILLFORD, HENRY (*Hon. Photographer*), Uplands View, Haven Street, Ryde. (July, 1908).
WILLIAMS, Mrs. C. H., Emmanuel Parsonage, Exeter. (January, 1911).
WILLIAMS, Mrs. HOWARD, 24, Harley House, Regent's Park, London, N.W. (June, 1910).
WILLIAMS, SIDNEY, F.Z.S., (*Hon. Treasurer and Business Secretary*), "Oakleigh," 110, Riverway, Palmer's Green, London, N. (October, 1910).
WILSON, Miss F. M., 35, Emanuel Avenue, Acton, Middlesex. (March, 1906).
WILSON, T. N., M.A., Harrow Lodge, Bransgore, Christchurch. (Jan., 1902).
WINCHELSEA and NOTTINGHAM, The Countess of, Haverholme Priory, Sleaford. (June, 1903).

WIMBLE, CHAS., Thirlmere, South End Road, Beckenham. (December, 1909).
WOOD, L. W., Malting Farm, Aldwincle, Thrapston. (April, 1911).
WOODWARD, KENNETH N., 1, Madison Avenue, New York, U.S.A. February, 1915).
WORKMAN, W. H., M.B.O.U., Lismore, Windsor, Belfast. (June, 1912).
WRIGHT, G. B., c/o. G. Heaton, Church Hill, Handsworth, Birmingham. (June, 1908).
WRIGHT, R. NEWCOMBE, LL.B., Dormant. (January, 1911).
WROTTESLEY, The Hon. WALTER B., F.Z.S., Seisdon, Staplecross, Hawkhurst. (December, 1902).

YEALLAND, JAMES. Binstead, Ryde. (September, 1909).
YOUNG, ARTHUR E., Thornhill, Alnwick. (October, 1911).

The Hon. Business Secretary requests that he may be promptly informed of any errors in the above List.

Notices to Members.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: The year is sure to be a difficult and trying one for the officials, and we ask that all subscriptions may be sent in promptly, so as not only to lighten as far as possible *honorary* tasks, but also to facilitate the smooth working of the business of the club.

THE MAGAZINE: This issue will, we fear, be rather late, owing to the revision of Roll, etc., but also, so many having enlisted, our printer is much under-staffed; these difficulties, however, will right themselves as the year proceeds. That the Magazine may not be lacking in interest and variety, the Hon. Editor requests that copy may be sent to him dealing with any topic of avicultural interest.

RULES: We regret having to hold over these till next issue, when they will duly appear.

SHOWS: These have not been numerous owing to the "times"—there will be held on February 2nd and 3rd the JOINT MEMBERS' CLUB SHOW of L.C.B.A., N.B.B., and M:C., and F:B:E.L., open not only to the members of these societies.

ROLL OF HONOUR: Instead of continuing this month by month, we propose to publish a full list on the completion of the war. Among the last of our members to join are: A. Sutcliffe (one of our Council), who has obtained a commission in R.F.A., and F. Somers, who has a commission in the A.V.C.; but more of our members are with the colours than we know of at present.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Bus. Sec. and Treas.*

◆

New Members Elected.

Miss M. N. de Freville, Quennevais House, Jersey.

◆

Proposed for Election as Members.

J. Channing-Pearce, M.D., etc., Montague House, Ramsgate.
By Mrs. Sebag-Montefoire and S. Williams.
Rev. W. J. R. Sherlock, 159 Park Road, Barnsley.
H. Whitley, Primley Hill, Paignton, S. Devon. *By the Hon. Editor.*

◆

Illustration and Deficit Fund.

These two funds much need all the assistance members can give them. The Committee tender best thanks for the following donations:

	£	s.	d.
Arnott, R.	0	2	6
Hume, J.	0	2	6
Miller, R. Scott	0	10	0

Bampfylde, the Hon. Mrs.	1	0	0
Page, W. T.	1	0	0
Wait, Miss St. A.	0	10	0
Wilson, Miss F. M.	0	10	0

◆

The Bird Market.

Advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month. Charge: Members' Advertisements, four words a penny, minimum 4d. Non-Members, three words a penny, minimum 6d.

COLOURED PLATES: All the plates that have been issued up to the present, can be obtained uncut for framing at 1/- each, with the exception of "A Beautiful Aviary" which is 1/6.

Apply to The PUBLISHER, Market Place, Ashbourne.

◆

MEMBERS' SALES AND WANTS.

FOR SALE. Two Silverbill × Bronze Mannikin hybrids, 5s. each, or would exchange.—Miss. Mary Boyd, Webbery, Bideford.

FOR SALE. Cocks, Taha Weaver, 7s. 6d., and Cutthroat, 4s., both acclimatised and in perfect health.—Capt. Reeve, Glendaragh, Caterham, Surrey.

FOR SALE or EXCHANGE: "Bird Notes"—Vol. VI., N.S., unbound; Vol III., First Series, bound; good condition. WANTED: Zebra Finches, Java Sparrows, and Small Doves. Mrs. Cartwright, Bretton West Wakefield.

FOR SALE: Mealy Rosella (cock), lost one eye, 40s.; Blossom-headed (cock), 40s., or exchange hen; Breeding pair Black-cheeked Lovebirds 40s.; pair Madagascars 10s. 6d.—W. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

FOR SALE "Bird Notes," Vols. 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6; splendidly and, uniformly bound, leather backs, perfect condition. Cash offers or exchange (or part) for good microscope.—F. Howe, 54 Thomas Street, Wellingborough.

OFFERED 2 cock Diamond Finches, wanted cock Pectoral Finch and hen Diamond Dove; also offered, hen Red Avadavat for hen Golden-breasted Waxbill, all outdoors past 18 months. Also cock Crimson Finch, imported 1913, has bred, for cock Red Gouldian; and 2 aviary bred Cuban Finches, for 2 other ditto, all perfect feather except on Cuban.—Capt. Sprawson, 68, Southwood Lane, Highgate, London, N.

WANTED: Hen Yellow-backed Whydah. J. Charring Pearce, Montague House, Ramsgate.

WANTED: Hen Green Avadavat; pair of Cordon Bleus; Singing Shama.—Apply c/o Editor, "Bird Notes."

WANTED to Exchange, Peach-faced Lovebird (believed to be a hen) for guaranteed cock.—G. E. Haggie, Brumcombe, Foxcombe Hill, Oxford.

FOR SALE: Copies of "Bird Notes," all in good condition, and with coloured plates, 1908, Feb. and Aug. missing. 1909 Nov. missing. 1910 December missing. 1911 Oct. missing. 1912 and 1913 complete. 1914 Nov. missing.—Offers to Mrs. Croysdale, Hawke House, Sunbury-on-Thames.

AVIARIES AND BIRD FOODS: Aviaries Planned and their erection and furnishing supervised at reasonable charges. Aviaries visited and expert advice given. Existing aviaries overhauled, re-arranged, and re-furnished. Supervision of aviaries undertaken by monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly visits, at terms to be mutually agreed upon. In response to numerous requests I am willing to supply all kinds of Bird Seeds and Foods from my own stock. Also special mixtures for Parrots, Parrakeets, etc., at current rates: INSECTILE MIXTURE, 1s., 1s. 6d., 2s., and 2s. 6d. per lb. NEST BARRELS, for Parrakeets, Lovebirds, etc., specially made for the purpose, in three sizes—small, medium and large. These barrels, especially the large size, if fitted with a perch or twiggy branch, make excellent shelters for birds of the Finch-tribe during inclement weather. Also Rush Nests for Waxbills, and small Finches.—Apply, W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

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The Foreign Bird Club.

(Continued from page 1).

Magazine Committee :

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W. Shore Baily
W. A. Bainbridge
Dr. Phillip Gosse
H. Gray, M.R.C.V.S.
Dr. N. S. Lucas
Dr. L. Lovell-Keays
Dr. J. E. R. McDonagh
Rev. G. H. Raynor
Dr. J. Easton Scott
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Hon. Mrs. G. Bourke
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W. Bamford
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The Countess of Winchilsea
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R. Suggitt (*Hon. Sec.*).

Auditor

E. F. M. Elms

Scrutineer :

G. Scott Freeland

Rules.

1. The objects of "THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB" shall be the mutual encouragement and assistance of the members in keeping and breeding all species of Birds, and the exhibiting of Foreign Birds, and the improvement of Shows in regard to them.

2. The Club shall be composed of members. Every member shall pay an entrance fee of 2s. 6d. and an annual subscription of 10s. Subscriptions shall be due and payable in advance on the 1st of January in each year If any member's subscription shall be more than three months overdue, he shall be suspended from all benefits of the Club, and if more than nine months overdue, notice of his having ceased to be a Member of the Club, and of the cause, may be published in Notices to Members; and on such notice being published he shall cease to be a member accordingly, *but his liability for overdue subscriptions shall continue.*

3. New Members shall be proposed in writing by a Member of the Club; and the name and address of every person thus proposed, with the name of the person proposing him, shall be published in the Notices to Members. Unless the Candidate shall, within fourteen days after the publication of his name, be objected to by at least two Members, he shall be duly elected. If two or more Members shall lodge with either of the Secretaries objections to any Candidate, he shall not be elected, but the signature to the signed objections must be verified by the Scrutineer. The Secretaries and the Scrutineer shall not disclose the names of the objectors.

4. Any member wishing to resign at the end of the current year of the Club shall give notice of his intention to one of the Secretaries before the 31st of December, and in default of such notice *he shall be liable to the following year's subscription.*

5. The Officers of the Club shall be elected from the Members, and shall consist of a President, one or more Vice-presidents, and Auditor, a Scrutineer, one or more Secretaries, a Treasurer, a Veterinary Surgeon, a Council of Twenty-four Members, and such number of Judges as shall from time to time be determined by the Council. The Editor, Secretaries, Treasurer, and Veterinary Surgeon shall be *ex-officio* members of the Council.

Three Members of the Council shall retire annually by seniority, but are eligible for re-election. The Editor, Secretaries, and Treasurer shall be elected trienially. The Council and Judges shall be elected in a manner hereinafter provided. The other officers shall be elected annually at a meeting of the Council, immediately after their own election.

6. The election for the three annual vacancies on the Council, and the Judges, shall take place every year between the 15th November and the 5th December. The Secretaries shall ascertain which of the Members are willing to stand for election to office, and shall send to each Member of the Club on or about the 15th of November a voting paper containing a list of all such members, showing the offices for which they are respectively seeking election. Each Member shall make a (×) opposite the names of those for whom he desires to vote, and shall sign the paper at the foot, and send it in a sealed envelope to the Scrutineer, so that he may receive it before 5th December. The Scrutineer shall prepare a return of the Officers elected, showing the number of votes recorded for each Candidate, and send it one of the Secretaries for publication in the Notices to Members for December. The Scrutineer shall not reveal to any person how any Member shall have voted. In the event of an equality of votes the President shall have a casting vote.

7. Dealers in birds shall not be eligible for election to any office in the Club, except that of Judge. For the purpose of this rule, any Member who habitually buys birds with the intention of selling them again, shall be deemed a bird dealer. Before the annual election of officers, the Secretaries shall submit to the Council the list of Members willing to stand for election to the Secretaryship, the Treasurership, and the Council; and the Council shall remove from the list the name of any Candidate who shall be, in the opinion of the Council, a dealer in birds, within the meaning of this rule. The decision of the Council or of any Committee to whom the Council shall delegate its power under this rule, shall be final. When a dealer is proposed as a Member of this Club, the fact of his being a dealer shall be stated in the Notices to Members.

8. It shall be lawful for the Council to delegate any of its powers to a committee.

9. The Council may appoint an Arbitration Committee, which may decide questions at issue between Members, when requested to do so by both parties. Any decision of such Committee shall be final. Except to the extent permitted by this rule, the Club and its officers shall decline to concern themselves with disputes between Members.

10. The Council shall have power to alter and add to these Rules, but shall give to the Members notice of any proposed alteration or addition, and in the event of six members, objecting thereto within fourteen days, the proposed alterations or additions shall be submitted to the votes of the Members. Failing such objection the alteration shall date from its adoption by the Council.

12. Neither the office of Scrutineer nor that of Auditor shall be held for two consecutive years by the same person. The Scrutineer shall not be a Candidate at any Election at which he acts as Scrutineer.

13.—If any office becomes vacant at any time other than the end the current year of the Club, the Council shall have power to appoint any Member to fill the vacancy.

14 The decision of the majority of the Council shall be final and binding on the Club, but a resolution passed by the Council shall not be acted upon unless there be an absolute majority of the Council (and not merely of those voting) in its favour.

Rules Governing Club's Patronage at Shows.

1. The patronage of the F.B.C. is given at all OPEN SHOWS, provided the following conditions are observed.

   (*a*) At least three classes must be provided for FOREIGN BIRDS (excluding local and members' classes, in which no bird competing for F.B.C. patronage may be shown).

   (*b*) The classification, and name of the judge, must be submitted by show Secretaries, when applying for patronage.

   (*c*) Those societies obtaining patronage, must print in the schedule that the section is under the patronage of the F.B.C.

   (*d*) That no alteration (amalgamation or cancellation of classes must be made, or the judges changed without giving notice to the Hon. Show Secretary of the F.B.C., in which case the original patronage does not hold good.

2. All MEDALS are awarded to BEST BIRDS (but the Committee have the right to award extra medals for special purposes) and no silver

medal is granted where less than six classes are provided.

3 Members of the F.B.C. *must* place F.B.C. after each entry on entry forms and should request Show Secretaries to print these initials in their catalogues.

4. No Member can win more than two medals in a season, *i.e.*, one silver and one bronze, or more than one medal at the same show.

5. The London Silver Cup is offered for competition at all Shows under patronage in the London Postal District, where ten or more classes are given, and the Provincial Silver Cup at Shows outside this area, where six or more classes are given. Both Cups are awarded for most points gained throughout the season by nominated birds.

6. These Cups become the property of those who have won them three times (not necessarily in succession), and only three birds at each Show can be nominated, which is done by writing the word "Cup" after the entries on entry form. If members nominate more than three birds they will be disqualified for that Show.

7. These conditions only hold good where Show Societies and Members observe the rules. Failure to conform annuls all offers, and the birds of a member whose subscription is unpaid at the time of making an entry are ineligible to compete.

8. Points for the Cup to count as follows: 1st, 7 points; 2nd, 6 points; and one point off for each lower award. Should a tie take place, the member taking the most prize money to win.

9. Any item not herein provided for, may be dealt with at the discretion of the Show Committee.

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Rules re Breeding Medals

1. The F.B.C. Medal for Breeding a Species or Hybrid for the first time in captivity in Great Britain, will be awarded on the following conditions only:

(*a*) As detailed an account of the success as possible must be sent for publication in "Bird Notes," as soon as the young can fend for themselves.

(*b*) The Awards Committee, whose decision shall be final, to make the awards from the Secretary's data, and the published articles recording successes.

(*c*) The awards will be made, and the medals distributed, at the close of each successive season, or as soon afterwards as the the publication of said articles permit.

2. SPECIES: The young must be reared to be independent of their parents. When hatched, or reared by artificial means, or by foster-parents, the record is not eligible for the medal; except in the case of parasitic species.

3. HYBRIDS: For any cross not previously reared in captivity, between any two species—the domestic Canary as one of the parents alone being excepted. A cross between any two species is only once recognised, e.g., Parson Finch × Long-tailed Grassfinch, and Long-tailed Grassfinch × Parson Finch are reckoned as the same Hybrid for the purposes of this award, and whichever was secured first would hold the record. The eggs must be incubated and the young reared by the pair of birds producing the eggs, or the record will not be eligible for a medal.

Notices to Members.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Quite a number have overlooked the fact that these become due on January 1st, and that they are payable in advance; will they kindly suffer this reminder and remit at once, and so save the Hon. Sec unnecessary labour and also thereby assist in the facile working of the affairs of the Society.

THE MAGAZINE: While thanking those who have so liberally responded with donations and copy, the Hon. Editor strongly presses the point that, if each member sent one article about their aviaries and birds or other avicultural topics, not only would all sections be represented our contents more varied, and the Editor's task made much lighter than it is at present, but also there would be created an interest in the Club that has never yet existed. Of donations we cannot have too many—the whole of our income is spent on our Journal and Medals, *all the officials of the Club are honorary*, so all should have a personal interest in this matter, seeing that all alike benefit therefrom.

The Hon. Editor asks the forbearance of members and contributors as to this and next issues, as he is changing his residence and it has been impossible to give the usual time and close attention to proofs, etc. His address on and from March 1st will be "Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey."

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Bus. Sec. and Treas.*

Illustration and Deficit Fund.

These two funds much need all the assistance members can give them. The committee tender best thanks for the following donations:

	£	s.	d.
Browning, W. H.	0	10	0
Bruce, Miss A. M.	0	10	0
Currie, J.	0	2	6
Gerard, Miss M.	0	15	10
Hewitt, T W.	0	11	0
Mundy, Miss S.	1	0	0
Paterson, Rev. J. H.	0	11	0
Suggitt, R.	0	10	0
Tavistock, The Marquis of	10	0	0
Whistler, H.	0	5	0

Changes and Corrections of Addresses.

H. Goodchild, to 59 Leslie Road, East Finchley, London, N.
Rev. J. M. Paterson, to Hopewell, Srinagar, Kashmir, India.

New Members Elected.

J. Channing-Pearce, M.D., etc., Montague House, Ramsgate.
Rev. W J. R. Sherlock, 159 Park Road, Barnsley.
H. Whitley, Primley Hill, Paignton, S. Devon

Proposed for Election as Members.

Richard Baines, 6 Toronto Street, Monks Road, Lincoln.
Mrs. A M. Cook, 21 Oxford Road, Kilburn, London, N. W.
By S. Williams.
Stanley Amor, c/o Long & Sons, Railway Road, Bath. *By W. Shore Baily.*

The Bird Market.

Advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month. Charge: Members' advertisements, four words a penny, minimum 4d. Non-Members, three words a penny, minimum 6d.

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MEMERS' SALES AND WANTS.

FOR SALE: True pair Scaly-crowned Finches, have nested and laid in cage, £3, cock Long-tail Grassfinch (Heck's), 20s., would exchange the three for a breeding pair of Peach-faced Lovebirds or Blue Mountain Lorrikeets.—Miss Peddie Waddell, 4 Great Stuart Street, Edinburgh.

FOR SALE: Good pair Green Singingfinches, in out-door aviary, 10s., or would exchange for breeding pair of Zebra Finches.—B. Thomasset, Ashmansworth, near Newbury.

WANTED. Hen Diamond Dove in exchange for Cock, will give little Cash also.—Miss Webb, Millington Road, Cambridge.

WANTED. Cock B.H. Gouldian Finch, also pair of Red Avadavats. —H Turner, Tremadoc, Newton Abbot.

FOR SALE. Cocks, Crimson-crowned Weaver, 6s., and Napoleon Weaver 4s., or would exchange for two hen Zebra Finches.—R. E. Simpson, 5 Christ Church Avenue, Armley, Leeds.

FOR SALE: Privately imported, St. Helena Waxbills, Grey-necked Serins, Russ' Weaver, Cape Rock Bunting, Pintail Whydahs, St. Helena Seedeater. —Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Three cock, three hen Golden Pheasants, perfect condition, from aviary; very tame.—Longdon, Arriton, Guildford.

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Telephone :—
5489 London Wall.

Telegraphic Address :—
"Oiseaux, London."

MARCH, 1916

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

THE MAGAZINE: The Hon Editor regrets the non-appearance of any report of the Foreign Section of the Holborn Bird Show, but in consequence of change of residence, he has been quite unable to have access to his notes, which have gone astray in packing; perhaps members would write him, and state whether they would like a report to appear in April issue or not; if there is no response he will conclude that the matter is too much ancient history to occupy space. For the same reason he has been unable to include any instalment of the "Endurance of Birds" in this issue, but hopes to resume it next month.

ARTICLES. These are much needed if the contents of our Journal are to be as varied as hitherto, and the Hon. Editor solicits articles on such topics as "Foreign Doves and Pigeons," "Parrots and Parrakeets," "Aviary Records" (these should be sufficiently full to impart help and instruction to others), "Wading Birds and Waterfowl," "Fancy Pheasants," or any other avicultural topic.

COLOURED PLATE: The Hon. Editor has a beautiful coloured plate awaiting reproduction, and in these troublous times does not consider he ought to spend the funds thereupon; he is desirous to hear from some member who would be willing to bear the cost of same, otherwise he is of the opinion that we should abstain from coloured plates this vol., even though he has three good water-colour drawings awaiting reproduction.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon Bus. Sec. and Treas.*

Illustration and Deficit Fund.

These two funds much need all the assistance members can give them. The committee tender best thanks for the following donations:

	£	s.	d.
Connell, Mrs.	0	13	0
Goringe, Rev. R. E. P.	0	2	6
Hume, J.	0	2	6
Montague, R. (over-paid subscription)	0	0	6
Phair, H. J (over-paid subscription)	0	0	6
Kothwell, J. E	0	10	0

New Members Elected.

Richard Baines, 6 Toronto Street, Monks Road, Lincoln.
Mrs. A. M. Cook, 21 Oxford Road, Kilburn, London, N. W.
Stanley Amor, c/o. Long and Sons, Railway Road, Bath.

Proposed for Election as Members.

Baron M. Tossizza, 15, Rue de Lubeck. Paris, France. *By the Hon. Editor.*
Carr Walker, Tyrie, West Park, Headingley, Leeds. *By Mrs. C. Hollins*

Changes and Corrections of Addresses.

H. Whistler, I.P., to Ambala City, Punjab, India.
G. E. Herbert, to Hemingford Abbots, St. Ives, Hunts.

◆

The Bird Market.

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MEMERS' SALES AND WANTS.

COLOURED PLATES: All the plates that have been issued up to the present, can be obtained uncut for framing at 1/- each, with the exception of "A Beautiful Aviary" which is 1/6.
Apply to The PUBLISHER, Market Place, Ashbourne

FOR SALE or Exchange for Finches and Weavers: 1 cock Wagner's Hang-nest, 30s.; 1 cock Yellow-backed Whydah, 20s.—Dr. J. Chaning Pearce, Montague House, Ramsgate.

FOR SALE: Pair King Parrakeets, £10; odd cock £5; pair Blue-winged Parrakeets, £10; pair Mealy Rosellas, £5; odd hen, 50s.; Cherry Finches, 21s 6d. pair; Scaly-breasted Lorikeets, 50s. each; Golden-shouldered Parrakeet, £10.—R. Colton, 9 Birkendale Road, Sheffield.

FOR SALE: Cock Red-headed Finch; St. Helena Waxbills, Grey-necked Serin, Russ' Weaver, Cape Rock Bunting, Pintail Whydah, St. Helena Seed-eater, Red-headed Bunting, Alario Finch, Grey Finch, Scaly-crowned Finch, Silky Cowbird, Speke's Weaver, Malabar Starling.—Page, "Langstone," Lingfield, Surrey.

WANTED: Pair Nightingales: acclimatised Gouldian Finches; cock Redstart; hen Grey Wagtail. Cash, or part exchange breeding pair Peach-faced Lovebirds and Norwich Canaries.—A. Scott, Liphook, Hants.

WANTED: From out-door aviary: Hens, Californian Quail, Rosella Parrakeet (one which has bred preferred); Cock Cuban Quail, and two pairs Cockateels, or would exchange two pairs for change of blood—Mrs. Lee, Hartwell, House, Aylesbury.

FOR SALE: Avicultural Library, about 50 vols., including complete sets of early Vols. of "Avicultural Magazine" and "Bird Notes" (several of which are out of prints. Unique opportunity to acquire scarce avicultural books. List on application.—H. R. Fillmer, 22 Harrington Road, Brighton.

FOR SALE: Unbound "Bird Notes" Vols. II. to VI. inclusive; kindly donated by Mr. Hansell, for the benefit of the Deficit Fund. Offers invited.—S. Williams, Oakleigh, 110 Riverway, Palmer's Green, London, N.

FOR SALE: Cock Green Cardinal, 20s.; pair Ruficauda Finches, 35s.; pair Indian White-eyes, £4. WANTED: Hens, Mealy Rosella, Blue-bonnet, Blossom-head, and Plum-head. For sale: Champion Italian Greyhounds.—Miss Clare, The Hollies, 192 Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, S.W.

WANTED. Hen African Silverbill, and true pair Orange-cheek Waxbills.—Rev. W. J. R. Sherlock, 159 Park Road, Barnsley.

FOR SALE: 1 pair Californian Quail; 1 cock Silky Cowbird; 1 cock Cockateel; 1 pair Amazon Parrots; 28-30 Green Budgerigars. All are in out-door aviary, quite hardy and in perfect health. Would prefer to sell cheaply as one lot, but will sell any pair or bird separately. Dobson, Bindown, Hampton, Wick.

AVIARIES AND BIRD FOODS: Aviaries Planned and their erection and furnishing supervised at reasonable charges. Aviaries visited and expert advice given. Existing aviaries overhauled, re-arranged, and re-furnished. Supervision of aviaries undertaken by monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly visits, at terms to be mutually agreed upon. In response to numerous requests I am willing to supply all kinds of Bird Seeds and Foods from my own stock. Also special mixtures for Parrots, Parrakeets, etc., at current rates: INSECTILE MIXTURE, 1s., 1s. 6d., 2s., and 2s. 6d. per lb. NEST BARRELS, for Parrakeets, Lovebirds, etc., specially made for the purpose, in three sizes—small, medium and large. These barrels, especially the large size, if fitted with a perch or twiggy branch, make excellent shelters for birds of the Finch-tribe during inclement weather. Also Rush Nests for Waxbills, and small Finches.—W. T. Page, "Langstone," Lingfield, Surrey.

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5489 London Wall.

Telegraphic Address :—
"Oiseaux, London."

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS: Commencing with May issue, advertisements for members (not dealers) of *birds only* for SALE, EXCHANGE, or WANTS, will be inserted *FREE* of charge; but all adverts. for books, dogs and other creatures, etc., will be charged 6d. for 18 words, and one penny for each additional three (or part of three) words. Trade members can insert small adverts at the rate of a penny for three (or part of three, words. Rates for displayed advertisements for quarter, half or whole page can be obtained from the Publisher or the Hon. Editor. Apart from the above change, adverts. are sent and accepted according to conditions prevailing hitherto.

MEMBERS' SUBSCRIPTIONS: There are still a few outstanding; will all those who have not yet paid please remit *at once* and save the club and officials the expense and trouble of postal application?

THE MAGAZINE: The Hon. Editor desires to thank the Rev. C. H. Raynor for kindly sending the article from "TIMHREI" for reprinting in "B.N.", also B. T. Stewart for the loan of his water-colour drawing of the Bare-eyed Thrush for reproduction. Articles and photos on all topics of aviculture are much needed to keep our contents varied and helpful Will not our members who specialise in Parrots and Doves kindly write descriptions of their aviaries and birds, together with details of treatment and nesting episodes?

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Bus. Sec. and Treas*

Illustration and Deficit Fund.

The Committee tender best thanks for the following donations:

	£	s.	d.
Lovell-Keays, Dr. L.	0	11	0

Proposed for Election as Members.

Mons. Verstranten, Augusta House, Belle Vue Road, Ramsgate. *By Dr. J. Chaning Pearce.*

W. Jordan, Hill House, Palmer's Green, London, N.

Miss M. L. Harbord, Lorton Park House, Lorton, Cockermouth, Cumberland. *By S. Williams.*

H. V. Hamilton, The Rest on the Hillside, Hythe, Kent. *By the Hon. Editor*

A. E. Jeakins, Winscottie, Simla, India. *By F. W. Harper,*

New Members Elected.

Carr Walker, Tyrie, West Park, Headingley, Leeds.

Baron M. Tossizza, 15, Rue de Lubeck. Paris, France.

Changes and Corrections of Addresses.

R. E. Simpson, 1 Highthorne Grove, Ridge Road, Armley; Leeds.

The Bird Market.

Advertisements must reach the Hon. Editor by the 10th of each month.

RATES: *Private Members'* Adverts. referring to *birds only* inserted For terms of Displayed Advertisements of quarter, half, or whole page, apply for each additional three words. *Dealer Members.* Three words per penny For terms of Displayed Advertisements of quarter half, or whole page, apply to the Publisher or Hon. Editor.

MEMERS' SALES EXCHANGES AND WANTS.

FOR SAL: Several pairs of Pintail Nonpareil Finches, just arrived, in show condition, 50s. a pair, hens 20s. each.—R. Arnold, Tower House; Leigham Court Road, Streatham, London, S.W.

FOR SALE: Beautiful Australian Laughing Jackass, 5 guineas; Rare African Buzzard, 2 guineas; Pair fine Runts, 12s. 6d.—Rectory, Nash, Stony-Stratford, Bucks.

FOR SALE: Pair breeding Peach-faced Lovebirds. WANTED: Gouldian Finches.—Scott, Liphook, Hants.

FOR SALE: Cocks: Red-headed Finch; Russ' Weaver; Cape Rock Bunting; Pintail Whydah; Red-headed Bunting; Grey Finch; Scaly-crowned Finch; Silky Cowbird; Speke's Weaver.—Page, Langstone, Lingfield.

FOR SALE: Young Ring Doves from out-door aviary, 2s. pair; hen Canaries, 5s. each.—Mrs. Croysdale, Hawke House, Sunbury-on-Thames.

FOR SALE: Aviary-bred Zebra Finches, all now out of doors, pairs 15s., odd hens 10s. each.—Nicolson, Glenoe, Walton-on-Thames.

WANTED to exchange 2 Cock Cutthroats, and 1 Cock Cockateel for hens of same species.—Salt, L.M. Treloar Cripples' Hospital and College, Alton, Hants.

FOR SALE: Acclimatised pair of Magpie Mannikins, breeders. WANTED: cock Gouldian Finch, hen Fire Finch, and hen Zebra Finch.—Smith, Woodlands, Kendal.

De VON & Co.

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PRICE · LISTS.

FROM :—

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Telegraphic Address :— "Oiseaux, London."

MAY, 1916

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

The Magazine: The Hon. Editor requests that members will send him notes (photos also if possible) of the doings of their birds. He also specially desires articles on Doves and Pigeons; Parrots and Parrakeets; Pheasants and other game birds; Cranes, Flamingos and Waders generally; Raptores; and also details of their housing and treatment. He also particularly requests that those who are only able to keep birds in cages indoors, will send him full notes of their birds and how they treat them. The coloured plate appearing with this issue is to illustrate the article "My Sunbirds" in last issue, page 73.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Bus. Sec. and Treasurer.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

Illustration and Deficit Fund.

The Committee tender best thanks for the following donations:

	£	s.	d.
A Friend … … … … … … … … …	0	10	0
Bourke, The Hon. Mrs., (part cost coloured plate)……	1	18	0
Henderson, Mrs. … … … … … … …	0	11	0
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Pithie, Miss D. E. … … … … … … … …	0	2	6

Changes and Corrections of Addresses.

The Countess of Jersey, Osterley Park, Isleworth.
Mrs A. L. Tracy, to Halsham, Teignmouth, Devon.

Proposed for Election as Members.

J. L. Bonhote, M.A., F.Z.S., The Zoo, Cairo, Egypt.
By Sc.-Lieut W. A. Bainbridge:

New Members Elected.

Mons. Verstranten, Augusta House, Belle Vue Road, Ramsgate.
W. Jordan, Hill House, Palmer's Green, London, N.
Miss M L. Harbord, Lorton Park House, Lorton; Cockermouth, Cumber-
H. V. Hamilton, The Rest on the Hillside, Hythe, Kent.
A. E. Jeakins, Winscottie, Simla, India.

The Bird Market.

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MEMBERS' SALES EXCHANGES AND WANTS.

FOR SALE. Hens, Cape, Yellow, and Cinnamon Sparrows, 7s. 6d. each or exchange cocks. W. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

FOR SALE: 2, Acclimatized and perfect cock Crimson-wing Parrakeets, agree together, 5 guineas each. The Hon. Mary C. Hawke, Wighill Park, Tadcaster.

FOR SALE: Pair Ring-necked Parrakeets, nesting.—Mrs. Gant, Willow Hyrst, Hellingly, Sussex.

FOR SALE: Hen Zebra Finches, and pair Diamond Sparrows, all out-doors. —Nicolson, Glenoe, Walton-on-Thames.

FOR SALE: Breeding pair Black Tanagers; cocks Sulphury Seed-Eater, Pin-tail Whydahs, Red-headed Bunting, Speke's Weaver, Silky Cowbird, Red-headed Finch, Grey Finch (*Spermophila grisea*), Scaly-crowned Finch, Malabar Starling, Russ' Weaver. Wesley T. Page. Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

FOR SALE: A number of Water-colour Drawings of Foreign Birds by H. Goodchild, also coloured lithos of birds, hand coloured by the artist. List and prices from.—Wesley T. Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

WANTED: Cocks, Black-headed Sibia, and Gold-fronted Fruitsucker. Hens, Ruficauda Finch, and Hair-crested Bunting. Also Gouldian Finches, Red, or Black, either sex. R. de Q.-Quincy, Inglewood, Chislehurst.

WANTED: Hen Black Swan. Mrs Gant, Willow Hyrst, Hellingly, Sussex.

WANTED: Hen B. H. Gouldian Finch. H. Turner, Tremadoc, Newton Abbot.

WANTED. Acclimatized cock Gouldian Finch.—H. Bright, Lynton, Eaton Road, Cressington Park, Liverpool.

WANTED: Cock Scarlet Tanager, in good condition, also sittings of Elliott's Pheasant's eggs. Rattigan, Caersws, Montgomeryshire.

WANTED: Sittings of Pheasant's eggs, excluding Silver, Golden, Amherst, and Ring-necks.—Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Several pairs of Pintail Nonpareil Finches, in show condition, privately imported, 50s. pair, hens 20s. each.—R. Arnold, Tower House, Leigham Court Road, Streatham, London, S.W.

FOR SALE. Hen Magpie Mannikin and cock Grenadier Weaver. WANTED: Hens Fire and Zebra Finches.—Smith, Woodlands, Kendal.

FOR SALE: All Green Tanager, acclimatized.—Miss Peddie Waddell, 4 Gt. Stuart Street, Edinburgh.

WANTED: Tame and acclimatized cock Tovi Parrakeet.—Miss D. Pithie, 68, Clarendon Road, Southsea, Portsmouth

De VON & Co.

Arrived 17th April, 800 pair Adult Breeding Green Budgerigars, and 200 pair Yellows. May 1st, arrived, 700 pair Greens, and 300 pair Yellows.

Also since, we have received, African, Grey Parrots, Amazons, Alario Finches, S. Helena Seedeaters, etc. See Price Lists of Nightingales and other stock.

Bethnal Green Road, London, N.E.

JUNE, 1916

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

THE MAGAZINE: The Hon. Editor would be glad to receive articles from members on any avicultural topic, and from members residing abroad, notes of the birds and aviculture in their localities generally.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: There are still a few members who have overlooked these; it is important for the facile working of the Club that these should be remitted to the Hon. Treasurer (Mr. S. Williams), at once.

DONATIONS: In these "war times," even though all are more or less affected thereby, there is a need for liberality and that the Illustration and Deficit Funds should not be forgotten, owing to the high price of paper and cost of production generally.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Bus. Sec. and Treasurer.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

Changes and Corrections of Address.

E. W Harper, 17-19, Old Court House Street, Calcutta, India.
Major General H. O'Donnell, Earl Soham, Suffolk.

Proposed for Election as Members.

Mrs. N Mackness, 22 Cypress Road, Church End, Finchley, London, N.
Mrs. C Garcke, Wye Lodge, Maidenhead. *By S. Williams.*
L. A Windybank, Latchmere, Richmond Road, Kingston-on-Thames.
By the Hon. Editor.

New Members Elected.

J L. Bonhote, M.A., F.Z.S., The Zoo, Cairo, Egypt.

The Bird Market.

Advertisements must reach the Hon. Editor by the 10th of each month.

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MEMBERS' SALES EXCHANGES AND WANTS.

FOR SALE: Hen Green Cardinal from outside aviary, 30s. or exchange for a hen Gouldian Finch. WANTED: Hens, Ruficauda Finch, Cordon Bleu, and Green Avadavat.—Mrs. Storey, Summer Hill, Tarporley, Cheshire.

FOR SALE Breeding pair Peach-faced Lovebirds. WANTED Albino cock Sparrow.—Scott, Liphook, Hants.

FOR SALE. Proceeds for War Fund, cocks Long-tailed Grassfinch, Zebra Finch, Scaly-headed Finch; hens, Gouldian Finch Gold-breasted and Dufresne's Waxbills. WANTED: hens Red-rump Parrakeet, and Brown-throated Conure and Italian Greyhounds.—Miss Clare, 194, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, S.W.

FOR SALE. Swinhoe Pheasants, 1 cock and 2 hens, £6 the pen. Cock Yellow-flank Parrakeet, 25s.; cock Canary-wing Parrakeet, 25s.; Brown-throated Conure, 20s.—Mrs. C. H. Williams (S. Thomas), 3 Manor Road, Exeter.

FOR SALE: Privately imported. Maroon Orioles, true pair Hardwick's Fruitsuckers, Gold-fronted Fruitsucker, Temminck's Blue Whistling Thrush, Rufous-chinned Laughing Thrush, White-eared Bulbuls and Blue-cheeked Barbet.—W. T. Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

FOR SALE.—Two fine Cock Green Singing Finches, in outdoor aviary; in full song; offers.—J. H. Henstock, Avian Press, Ashbourne.

FOR SALE.—Very fine young pair of Red-collared Lorikeets; price £4 4s.; also an "All Green" Tanager cock, 35s.. Miss Peddie Waddell, Balquhalstone, Slamannan, Stirlingshire.

FOR SALE.—Australian birds in pairs; Many Colour, King, and Mealy Rosella Parrakeets; Cocks: Golden-shoulder, Barraband's and Pennant Parrakeets, and Scaly-breasted Lorikeets. Finches: Bicheno's, B.H. Gouldian, Long-tail Grass, Parson, Cherry, and Common Parrot Finches. WANTED. Seth Smith's Book on Parrakeets.—R. Colton, 9, Birkendale Road, Sheffield.

WANTED Cocks, Scarlet Tanager, Red-vented Bulbul (or sell guaranteed breeding hen Red-vented Bulbul, reared young last season), and a hen Red-crested Cardinal.—Rattigan, Caersws, Montgomeryshire.

WANTED: Breeding pairs, Peach-faced, Red-faced and Blue-winged Lovebirds.—W. Edmunds, Coombe Farm, Langton Matravers, Dorset.

WANTED Hens, Cordon Bleu, Gold-breasted Waxbill and Grey Singing-finches.—Apply c/o., Hon. Editor, "Bird Notes," Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

WANTED: Hen Bib Finch.—Miss C. Bowring, Rose Cottage, Windsor Forest, Berks.

De VON & Co.

Arrived 17th April, 800 pair Adult Breeding Green Budgerigars, and 200 pair Yellows. May 1st, arrived, 700 pair Greens, and 300 pair Yellows.

Also since, we have received, African, Grey Parrots, Amazons, Alario Finches, S. Helena Seedeaters, etc. See Price Lists of Nightingales and other stock.

Bethnal Green Road, London, N.E.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

UNPAID SUBSCRIPTIONS: A few of these are still unpaid, and though mostly this arises from a sort of thoughtless slackness, there is one fact that must not be overlooked, viz.: The production of *Bird Notes* entails the meeting of heavy printer's bills periodically, and the only source for meeting these is members' subscriptions. Will those in arrear suffer this reminder, and kindly remit same to the Hon. Treasurer *at once?*

THE MAGAZINE: Copy is still wanted from members, we will not specialise, but simply state that articles and photos upon any topic of avicultural or ornithological interest will be welcome. Aviary records, episodes and descriptions of attempts (successful or otherwise) to rear young, are of great interest to all readers—the Hon. Editor desires to keep contents of the Club Journal as varied as possible, this can only be achieved by the co-operation of all members.

SYDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Bus. Sec. and Treas.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

Illustration and Deficit Fund.

The Committee tender best thanks for the following donations:

	£	s.	d.
Scott, Dr. and Mrs. J.	0	10	6
Walker, H. Carr	0	10	0
Southcombe, S. L.	0	10	0

New Members Elected.

Mrs. N. Mackness, 22 Cypress Road, Church End, Finchley, N. London.
Mrs. C. Garcke, Wye Lodge, Maidenhead.
L. A. Windybank, Latchmere, Richmond Road, Kingston-on-Thames.

Proposed for Election as Members.

T. W. Macready, 39 George-street, Stranraer. *By S. Williams.*
T. C. Halkes, The Limes, 141 Monks Road, Lincoln.
E. Paterson, Glenelg, Wellington, Salop.
Lady Samuelson, Hatchford Park, Cobham, Surrey. *By the Hon. Editor.*

Add to Roll.

Lady Yule, Hanstead House, Bricket Wood, Herts.

The Bird Market.

MEMBERS' SALES EXCHANGES AND WANTS.

FOR SALE: Breeding pair Peach-faced Lovebirds. WANTED: Albino cock Sparrow. Scott, Liphook, Hants.

FOR SALE. Very fine young pair of Red-collared Lorrikeets, 4 guineas, also an All-Green Tanager cock, 35/-. Miss Peddie Waddell, Balquhalstone, Slamannan, Stirlingshire.

FOR SALE. Proceeds Red Cross Fund, Lot: cocks, Long-tailed Grass-, Zebra, and Scaly-fronted Finches; hens: Gouldian Finch, Dufresne's and Gold-breasted Waxbills; tickets, 4s. Lot: 4 pairs Budgerigars, tickets 2s.; 1 pair ditto, tickets 6d. Also cock Red-rump Parrakeet.—Miss Clare, 194 Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, S.W.

FOR SALE: Swinhoe Pheasants, 1 cock and 2 hens, £6 the pen; cocks Yellow-flank and Canary-wing Parrakeets, 25s. each; Brown-throated Conure, 20s.—Mrs. C. H. Williams (S. Thomas), 3, Manor Road, Exeter.

FOR SALE: Two handsome cock Crimson-wing Parrakeets, acclimatised, agree together, can be kept out of doors in unheated aviary; owing to change of residence, will accept 9 guineas for the two.—Hon. M. C. Hawke, c./o., Miss B. Harrison, Manor House, Otton, Tadcaster.

FOR SALE: Handsome cock Peacock Pheasant, healthy and acclimatised, will accept 50s.—Miss A. B. Smyth, 40 Davenport Road, Catford, S.E., London.

FOR SALE: Cocks Half-masked and Taha Weavers, 7s. 6d. each; also a Little Owl, hand-reared, 20s.—Capt. Reeve, Dunheved, Caterham, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Privately Imported, Himalayan Blue Whistling Thrush, Siskins, and Goldfinches; Red-headed Buntings, Jungle Babbler, Maroon Orioles, hen Hardwick's Fruitsucker, Black-breasted (Rain) Quail, and Afghan Rosy-winged Finch.—Apply W. T. Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

WANTED: Cocks, Grey Singingfinches; pairs, Avadavats and Bib Finches.—Mrs. Chatterton, 11 Fairfield Road, Crouch End, N., London.

WANTED: Hen Bib Finch.—Miss C. Bowring, Rose Cottage, Windsor Forest, Berks.

FOR SALE. Orange Bishop, in exhibition form. A few Green Budgerigars, single or pairs.—J. H. Henstock, Avian Press, Ashbourne.

FOR SALE: Cocks, Hooded, King, and Red-rump Parrakeats; also pure bred Fox Terrier bitch, and pup Italian Greyhound bitch, 8 months old. WANTED. Adult Cock, African Ring-necked Parrakeet.—Miss Clare, 194 Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, S.W

FOR SALE: Several pairs of privately imported Pintail Nonpareils in show condition, 50/- pair, hens 20/- each.—R. Arnold, Tower House, Leigham Court Road, Streatham, S.W., London.

De VON & Co.

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Address:

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The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

MEMBERS MEETINGS AT ZOO: Owing to the war we have omitted these meetings this year, but there will be an informal gathering on Thursday, August 31st, when the Hon. Editor hopes to be supported by as many of the Council and members as can make it convenient to attend. *Rendezvous*: Outside Small Birds' House at 11 to 11-30 a.m. and 2, p.m. Will those attending either wear club badge or carry a copy of *Bird Notes*?

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Bus. Sec. and Treas.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

Changes and Corrections of Address.

Miss A. B. Smyth, to 27 Haverfield Gardens, Kew Gardens, Kew.

New Members Elected.

T C Halkes, The Limes, 141 Monks Road, Lincoln.
E. Paterson, Glenelg, Wellington, Salop.
Lady Samuelson, Hatchford Park, Cobham, Surrey.
T. W. Macready, 39 George-street, Stranraer.

The Bird Market.

MEMBERS' SALES EXCHANGES AND WANTS.

FOR SALE: Breeding pair Peach-faced Lovebirds, WANTED: Albino cock Sparrow.—Scott, Liphook, Hants.

FOR SALE: Very fine young pair of Red-collared Lorrikeets, 4 guineas, also an All-Green Tanager cock, 35s.—Miss Peddie Waddell, Balquhalstone, Slamannan, Stirlingshire.

FOR SALE. Pairs Doves. Bronzewing 40s., Diamond 30s., Necklace 20s., Hybrid Necklace × Senegal, very pretty, 20s.; Young Rosella Parrakeets, 20s. each; Californian Quail 15s. pair; Eastern Variegated Thrush 50s., hen Cordon Bleu, finest condition; 20s Young Waterfowl: 3 Red-crested Pochards 40s., 3 Yellow-billed Ducks 25s., 2 Cinnamon Teal 30s., 5 Wigeon 25s. W. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

FOR SALE: All privately imported—Red Avadavats; Indian Silverbills; Button Quail; Red-headed Buntings; Jungle Babbler; hen Hardwick's Green Bulbul; Temminck's Blue Whistling Thrush; Bank Mynahs (*Acridotheres gingimunus*), Large Hill Mynah, Swainson's Lorikeet, Maroon Oriole. Particulars from W. T Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey

FOR SALE Pair Black-headed Mannikins 15s; cock White-headed Mannikins 7s 6d. WANTED: hen African Silverbill.—Rev. W. J. R. Sherlock, 159 Park Road, Barnsley.

FOR SALE Beautiful tame Australian Jackass £5; African Buzzard 30s; young tame Tawny Owl, 10s., Pair Runts 10s 6d—Rectory, Nash, Stony-Stratford

FOR SALE: Cocks, Hooded, Red-rump, and King Parrakeets; Zebra Finch, breeder; 3 Indian White-eyes; hen Af. Ring-neck Parrakeet, breeder. Also Fox Terrier bitch, 2 years 8 months, sire Ch. West Point, good house dog, suitable for brood bitch, 40s. HALF PROCEED RED CROSS FUND: Italian Greyhound bitch, 9 months, peach fawn sister to famous Ch. Dandy Dick, tickets 1s. 2d. each. Miss Clare, 194 Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, S.W.

FOR SALE: Crimson-crown Weaver, winner, 6s. 6d; pair Green Budgerigars, champions, always first, 9s 6d.; cock Yellow Bird, 3s., Parrot Show Cage, once used, cost 18s. 6d., sell 8s. 6d., also others "Avicultural Magazine, Vols. 3 and 4, offers.—Shipton, 71 Cloudesdale Road, Balham, London, S W.

WANTED: Cock Cockateel and hen Yellow-backed Whydah. J. Chaning Pearce, Montague House, Ramsgate.

FOR SALE: Pair Virginian Cardinals, 60s., cock, talented songster; another pair, cock, fine colour, hen rather old, but free breeder, 42s.; Diamond Doves, perfect, 30s. pair; Emerald-Spotted Doves, 25s., odd cock, defective foot, 7s. 6d., Black Tanagers (free breeders and easy to rear) 20s., young from do. 6s. each; Common Quail 7s. 6d. pair; Californian Quail 25s. pair, young from same 10s. each, 17s. 6d. pair; pair Nuthatches (in cage and aviary since last winter) 15s.; Grey Plover 6s.; Golden Plover (summer plumage) 6s.; hen Scarlet Tanager 30s.; hen Red-faced Lovebird (show condition) 20s.; PHEASANTS: this year's birds, Golden 5s., Amherst 7s. 6d., Kalige 8s. 6d., adult pair Kalige 30s.; pair Pallas' Sandgrouse 40s. AVIARIES: No. 1 30 x 15 x 7 feet ($\frac{1}{2}$ inch mesh netting) complete with shelter shed 10.4ft. x 5.2ft. x 7ft., constructed September, 1915, cost £30. No. 2: 20ft. square x 7ft. ($\frac{1}{2}$ inch mesh netting), shelter $9\frac{1}{2}$ft x 4ft. x 7ft., cost £17, constructed April, 1914. No. 3: Pheasantry, with 3 partitions, shelter for each run, cost £12 10s., constructed May, 1916 (20ft. x 15ft. x 7ft.), offers invited, no reasonable offer refused —Rattigan, Caersws, Montgomeryshire.

WANTED: 2 cock Nonpareil Buntings, hens Cuba and Olive Finches, cock Hooded Siskin, and many other odd cocks and hens of various species.—Grossmith, The Grange, Bickley, Kent.

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The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

The Magazine : The Hon. Editor and Secretary would be grateful for any donations, however small, to the Illustration Fund. Our Illustrations form one of the most practical features of our Journal, but in these times they are very costly ; yet, if *each* will send a little, there will be no need for further curtailment than in recent issues—the Hon. Editor presses this point upon the consideration of all. He would also be grateful for articles upon any and every topic of aviculture—individual experiences, because we get similar from many situated in various localities does not necessarily mean mere repetition ; rather the comparison of such results from many localities is most valuable,—moreover, there are many roads, all of which may and often do lead to success, and the more frequent publication of such in our Journal should still further tend to enhance the value of "Bird Notes" as an Avicultural Text Book—*this ought to be the ambition and aim of every member.*

Subscriptions : There are still a few of these unpaid, and we would again remind those in default, that we have to meet very heavy printing bills at frequent intervals, and that subscriptions and donations are our sole source of income. The earnest desire of your Council is to hasten the time when subscriptions will provide a sufficient income ; but the slack oversight of the date when such become due (Jan. 1st), and the failure to remit them promptly cause much anxiety and unpleasantness to your *honorary* officers. We would further remind members that all officers, *without exception*, give their services gratuitously ; thus the *whole* income of the Club comes back to the members in the form of a valuable Journal, Medals etc. It should not be needful to press the matter further, and apology is unnecessary for this plain statement of the case.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Bus Sec. and Treas.*

Obituary.

Captain A. C Young ; killed in action, July 1st, 1916.

Illustration and Deficit Fund.

These two funds need all the assistance members can give them!
The Committee tender best thanks for the following donation :

	£	s.	d.
Crow, C. F.	1	1	0

Proposed for Election as Members.

Mrs. L. Nelson, The Wych, Sandbanks, Parkstone, Dorset. *By the Hon. Editor.*
Mrs. G. A Perreau, Bakloh, Punjab, India

Changes and Corrections of Address.

Cronkshaw, J., to "Red Croft," Hollin's Lane Accrington.
Bowring Mrs C. to Ascot Heath Lodge, Ascot Berks.

The Bird Market.

MEMBERS' SALES EXCHANGES AND WANTS.

FOR SALE: Pair Black-headed Bronze Mannikins 15s.; also cock Grey Java Sparrow 5s., or exchange Zebra Finches.—Theo. Foster, Fairlight, Babbacombe, S. Devon.

FOR SALE: B.H. Gouldian cock, 2 years, perfect condition, 25s.; two Bronze-wing Mannikins 10s.; pair Zebra Finches 10s. 6d.—Turner, Tremadoc, Newton Abbot.

FOR SALE: Pairs Rosellas and Black-cheeked Lovebirds, 35s. each; Bronze-wing and Brush Bronze-wing Pigeons, 40s. pair; Necklace and Hybrid Necklace + Senegal Doves 20s. pair; all in very fine condition.—W. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

FOR SALE: Three very fine Many-colour Parakeets, also three young Stanley Parrakeets; own breeding. Will exchange acclimatised Grenadier Weaver in colour for hen Firefinch or hen Zebra Finch. J. Smith, Woodlands, Kendal.

FOR SALE: Lory hybrid, Swainson + Garrulous; own breeding, very handsome, feed from hand.—Mrs. Hartley, Lynchfield, Bishops Lydeard, Taunton.

FOR SALE: All acclimatised; Yellow Budgerigars; cock Green Glossy Starling; Yorkshire Canaries; All Green, and Ring-neck Parrakeets; Black-cheeked and Peach-faced Lovebirds; Red-billed and Russ' Weavers; Grey Java Sparrows; Orange-shouldered and Shining Whydahs, hens, Cockateel, Orange Bishop; Particulars, c.o. Hon. Editor.

PRIVATELY IMPORTED.: Silverbills; Red-headed Buntings; young Blossom-headed Parrakeets; cock Japanese Robin; Jungle Babbler; pair Glossy Calornis (hand-reared); Blue-cheeked Barbet; Button Quail; pair Bank Mynahs; hen Hardwick's Fruitsucker.—W. T. Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Acclimatised, adult pair Barraband's Parrakeets; pair acclimatised Pennant's Parrakeets, in full colour; acclimatised hen Rosella; pair Cockateels; 3 Crested Pigeons; 4 Piping Crows: pair Black Rails; pair Bleeding-heart Pigeons; cock Brush Turkey: 2 pairs Mandarin Ducks, 3 Garganeys; 5 finger tame Canary-wing Parrakeets; 2 Banded Parrakeets; cock Ring-neck Parrakeet; 2 Bare-eyed Cockatoos; 4 large Yellow-crested Cockatoos; Slender-billed Cockatoo; 2 Brown-eared Conures; pair Himalayan Snow Pigeons, etc also tame Monkeys.—A. E. Jamrach, 180, St. George Street East, London

FOR SALE: Acclimatised pair of Meyer's-Parrots, tame, and in good feather; also large cage 4ft. long, 4 ft. high and 3 ft. wide, which they are accustomed to occupy. Also a copy of Russ' "Foreign Finches" with coloured plates 30s. Miss Smyth, 27 Haverfield Gardens, Kew Gardens, Kew, S.W.

FOR SALE: Good pair Saffron Finches; 2 hen Pekin Robins; one S.Am. Grey Finch. Miss Hincks, Barons Down, Dulverton.

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OCTOBER, 1916.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

THE MAGAZINE The Editor much regrets the late appearance of this issue, pressure upon his time prevented him dealing with copy till the issue was all but due. Members can materially assist him by sending articles and notes of their aviaries and birds, or any other topic of avicultural interest, which would enable him to prepare the issues a little in advance. Even in these arduous times such can be done, if members wiil kindly give the matter a thought—the times are equally arduous *for all* and such assistance will much lighten your Hon. Editor's task.

OUR ROLL. This hideous war has already claimed many of our members, whose names will be missing from the roll next year—another two months and 1916 will have passed, will members kindly look around among their bird friends who are not members of " F.B.C " for recruits for the coming year? Thus we may repair the breaches made by the war and be in a position to recover lost ground, when less weighty matters claim our mutual time.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Bus Sec. and Treas.*

The Show Season.

The Show Committee have granted the Club's Patronage to the following Shows :

SHEFFIELD. open Show, November 3rd and 4th Classification for six classes for Foreign Birds. One Silver Medal. Judge, Mr. J. Frostick. Schedules from Mr. E. C. Job, Wincobank, Sheffield.

3 Swift Street, Fulham. S. M. TOWNSEND, Exhibition Sec.

Illustration and Deficit Fund.

These two funds need all the assistance members can give them. The Committee tender best thanks for the following donations:

	£	s.	d.
Cook, Mrs. A. M.		2	6
Chawner, Miss	1	1	0
Mortimer, Mrs.		5	0
Perreau, Mrs. G. A.		7	6
Reeve, Captain J. S.	1	0	0

New Members Elected,

Mrs. L. Nelson, The Wych, Sandbanks, Parkstone, Dorset.
Mrs. G. A. Perreau, Bakloh, Punjab, India.

Proposed for Election as Members.

Henry Le Pelley, L.C. & M. Bank Ltd., Guernsey.
A, I. White. Glenshira, Barroby Road, Grantham,
P. J. Calvocaressi, Holme Hay, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool.
Guy Falkner, The Cottage, Belton. Uppingham. *By the Hon. Editor.*

Changes and Corrections of Address.

G. E. Rattigan to, Lanarkslea, Cornwall Gardens, London, S.W.
Miss M. Gerard to, 31 Via Santo Spirito, Florence, Italy.
Mrs. C. Anningson to, 4 The Crescent, The Park, Plymouth.

The Bird Market.

MEMBERS' SALES EXCHANGES AND WANTS.

FOR SALE—Few pairs, fine Green Budgerigars 8/6 pair; also 1 pair Zebra Finches 15/- all out-door aviary bred.—Mrs. Mackness. 22 Cypress Road, Finchley, London. N.

FOR SALE—Fine pair Senegal Parrots, have nested, 50/- ; handsome pair Black-headed Conures, 50/- ; cock Moustache Parrakeet, 20/- ; hen Ringneck, 20/- ; all in outside aviaries.—W. Shore Baily. Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

FOR SALE—Weavers: cock Greater Golden, rare 35/- ; Crimson-crowned, 8/6 ; Rufous-necked, Cock, 10/6 ; Large hen, species unknown, 7/6 : acclimatized birds in out-door, unheated aviary—Hon. Sec., 110 Riverway, Palmer's Green, London, N.

FOR SALE—Californian Quail, 17/6 pair, 3 pairs 50/- ; Indian Painted Sandgrouse 15/- ; Scarlet Tanager hen, 30/- ; Peach faced Lovebirds 70/-—Guaranteed true breeding pair and in Show condition—a young bird from above 30/- ; take £7 10/- ; for the lot.—Rattigan, Lanarkslea, Cornwall Gardens, London, S.W

WANTED—Acclimatised hen Pennant's Parrakeet, for out-door aviary—Baronne Tanctegnies, Cleveland, Minehead, Somerset.

WANTED—Acclimatised hen Rainbow Bunting—Lady Samuelson, Hatchford Park, Cobham, Surrey.

FOR SALE—Bengal Pittas, hand-reared ; Indian Green Barbets, hand-reared ; Glossy Calornis, hand-reared ; Yell-backed Lory Jungle Babbler ; hen Hardwick's Chloropsis ; pair Bank Mynahs ; Button Quail, both sexes ; Blue-cheeked Barbet ; Black-headed Nnns ; Indian Silver-bills ; Red-headed Bunting's Himalayan Goldfinches ; Young Bloss-headed Parrakeets ; Japanese Robin (*E. akhaige*) ; pair Gold-fronted Chloropsis—ALL ABOVE PRIVATELY IMPORTED. Also Ring-necked Parrakeet ; Yellow Budgerigars ; Shining and Orange-shouldered Whydah ; hen Orange and Red-billed Weavers ; hen Yell-throated Sparrow ; all acclimatised—Apply W. T. Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

FOR SALE—Aviary bred Zebra Finches, either sex, pairs 15/- ; ditto Peach-faced Lovebird 30/-—G. E. Haggie, Brumcombe, Foxcombe Hill, Oxford.

FOR SALE—Mandarin Ducks ; Purple Kaleeges (*Euplocamus horsfieldi*) ; Swinhoe's Pheasants ; Horned Tragopans ; Monauls ; Elliott's Pheasants ; Bleeding-Hearts Pigeons ; Crested Pigeons ; Bare-eyed Cockatoos ; Black Swans ; Crossoptilons ; Pied Peafowl ; 1 pair Barraband's Parrakeets ; tame pet Monkeys, etc,—Albert F. Jamrach, 180 St. George Street, London, E.

FOR SALE—As a going concern the business carried on for some years under the title of "Pets" Supply Co., Coppice Drive, Harrogate—Buildings, Office. Aviaries, Poultry runs, houses and all accessories ; charmingly situated, low rental, 1000 customers on the books—a splendid opening for Lady or Gentlemon with small private income wanting a fascinating and remunerative hobby—Apply as above—Highest testimonials.

FOR SALE—Exquisite pair of Red-naped Lorikeets (*Trichoglossus rubritorques*)—Miss Peddie Waddell, Balquhalstone, Clacmannan, Stirlingshire.

FOR SALE—Finding it impossible to look after stock during bad weather and being unable to find suitable labour, I wish to clear the flolowing and will be glad of reasonable offers—1 pair Silver Pheasants, full perfect plumage ; 3 pairs

Senegal Turtle Doves, breeding ; 6 pairs Yellow and Green Budgerigars ; 1 cock Californian Quail ; 2 cock Saffron Finches, full colour ; 1 Leadbeaters Cockatoo ; 1 Lemon-crested Cockatoo, very time. A great number of show cages of various kinds, Aviaries and general appliance.—Mrs. Hollins, The Aviaries. Coppice Drive, Harrogate.

FOR SALE—Cock Diamond Sparrow, Cuban Finch (cock ?). Two Cock avadavats Cock and Hen Cordon Blue Cock Fire Finch ; 3 common Wax Bills, sex uncertain ; cock Golden Breasted Wax Bill ; Orange-cheeked Wax Bill (2). No reasonable offer refused to clear the lot.—G. M. Kelson, "Home Cot" Sunbury-on-Thames.

FOR SALE—1 cock and 2 hen Stanley Parrakeets, and 1 pair of Many-colours; all outdoor aviary bred. WANTED—hen Firefinch.—J. Smith, Woodlands, Kendal.

FOR SALE—Well-appointed outdoor Aviary, about 20 Foreign birds and pair of Califonian Quail and ten young ; no reasonable offer refused, owner with the colours.—Apply Miss H. Watts, Fairago, Weldon Road, Hornsea, E. Yorks.

FOR SALE—Private Importation, just arrived, in good condition, Avadavats ; Kokla Green Fruit-Pigeons (*Sphenocercus sphenurus*) ; and a few cock Pintail Nonpareils.—W. T. Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

De VON & Co.

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See Price Lists. Address :

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Telephone : 5489 London Wall. Telegraphic Address : "Oiseaux," London.

NOVEMBER, 1916.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL: Mr. A. Sutcliffe and Mrs. E. A. Hartley retire by rotation, but are eligible for re-election. Miss E. M. Baker has resigned and we suggest that Lady Kathleen Pilkington be elected to fill the vacancy.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: There are still a few of these unpaid! We should be greatly obliged if those who have overlooked 1916 subscriptions (due January 1st of each year, in advance), would promptly remit same, as we are most anxious to close the year's accounts promptly.

TO MEMBERS OVERSEAS: Arrangements have been made to secure "Bird Notes" reaching all our members in neutral countries, and if any numbers are missing the Publisher will be obliged if they will communicate with him

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Bus Sec. and Treas.*

Changes and Corrections of Address.

The Countess of Jersey, to Middleton Park, Bicester.

Proposed for Election as Member.

P. M. Castello, 20. Chalfont Court, London, N.W. *By W. H. Fisher.*

New Members Elected,

Henry Le Pelley, L.C. and M., Bank, Guernsey.
A. J. White, Gleshire, Barrowby Road, Grantham.
Guy Falkner, The Cottage, Belton, Uppingham.
P. I. C [illegible]

The Bird Market.

MEMBERS' SALES EXCHANGES AND WANTS.

FOR SALE. Breeding pairs Sikhim Siskins, 40s., Sulphury Seedeaters, 20s.; Saffron Finches, 15s.; Young Sikhim Siskins 30s.; Yellow Sparrows, 10s.; Zebra Finches 10s.; Diamond Doves 25s.; all per pair.—W. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

FOR SALE. "Bird Notes," good opportunity, Vols. 2, 3, 4, 5; 6; 7; and 8, all uniformly and splendidly bound, coloured plates, fine condition, 60s. or near offer. Approval if desired. F. Howe, 54, Thomas Street, Wellingborough.

FOR SALE. Breeding pair Diamond Doves, 35s.; Zebra Finches, 10s. 6d. per pair. Red-headed Finches, 12s. 6d. per pair, odd hens 7s. 6d., cock, 6s. 6d. each; also pair of Button Quail, 45s.—Mrs. W. A. Bainbridge, Hazelwood, Thorpe, Surrey.

FOR SALE. Pairs Green Fruit-Pigeons (*S. sphenurus*), 55s.; Glossy Indian Starlings (*Calornis chalybeus*), 50s.; Bank Mynahs, 45s.; Cock Jungle Babbler, rare, 63s.; hen Hardwick's Fruitsucker, 60s. Expected to arrive about 17th inst.: Bronze-wing Doves (*Chalcophaps indicus*), Black-crested Yellow Bulbuls (*Rubigula flaviventris*), Bengal Pittas, hen Shama Pintail Nonpareils, Blue-cheeked Barbets, Gold-fronted Fruit-suckers, Pied Hornbill, etc. Also acclimatised breeding pair of Malabar Mynahs, 50s. No post cards. W. T. Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

WANTED. Acclimatised pair of Golden-breasted Waxbills, hen Yellow-winged Sugarbird; cock Firefinch; pair Grey Singingfinches. c/o Hon. Editor, "Bird Notes," Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

SALE OR EXCHANGE. Silver Pheasants, this years birds, full grown, 2 cocks and 1 hen, would exchange for other species other than Silver or Gold. W. T. Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

WANTED. Pair of Orange-flanked Parrakeets. Capt. Reeve, Glendaragh, Caterham, Surrey.

FOR SALE. Aviary Bred Zebra Finches.—c/o Editor, "Bird Notes," Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

DECEMBER 1916.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

Election of Council: No other nominations having been received, the following—Lady Kathleen Pilkington, Mrs. Hartley, and Mr. A. Sutcliffe are duly elected to fill the vacancies on the Council.

Subscriptions: These become due on January 1st next, and are payable in advance. It will greatly help the Honorary Secretary in these difficult times if members will promptly remit same, together with any arrears there may be.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Bus Sec. and Treas.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

◆

Deficit and Illustration Funds.

	£	s.	d.
Bright, H.	1	0	0
Raven, W. H.	0	10	0
Three Members (Medal Fund) ...	3	0	0

◆

Changes and Corrections of Address.

The Hon and Rev. Canon Dutton, to "Mosborough," Grafton Road, Cheltenham.

◆

New Members Elected.

P. M. Castello, 20, Chalfont Court, London, N.W.

◆

Proposed for Election as Member.

O. Bartels "Orchidia," Mayne, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.
Chas. Cleeberg, junr., 16 Lockerbie Road, Dumfries, N.B.
Miss B. S. P. Parmenter, Didgemere Hall, Roydon, Essex.

By the Hon. Editor.

◆

The Bird Market.

MEMBERS' SALES EXCHANGES AND WANTS.

FOR SALE. *Privately Imported* Pairs Black-crested Yellow Bulbuls, Indian Green-wing Doves, and Bank Mynahs. Also aviary-bred Zebra Finches and acclimatised breeding pair of Malabar Mynahs.—Hon. Editor, "Bird Notes," Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Cock Pekin Robin, acclimatized and perfect in every way, 20s., or would exchange for Hen in similar condition.—Capt. Reeve, Dunheved, Caterham, Surrey.

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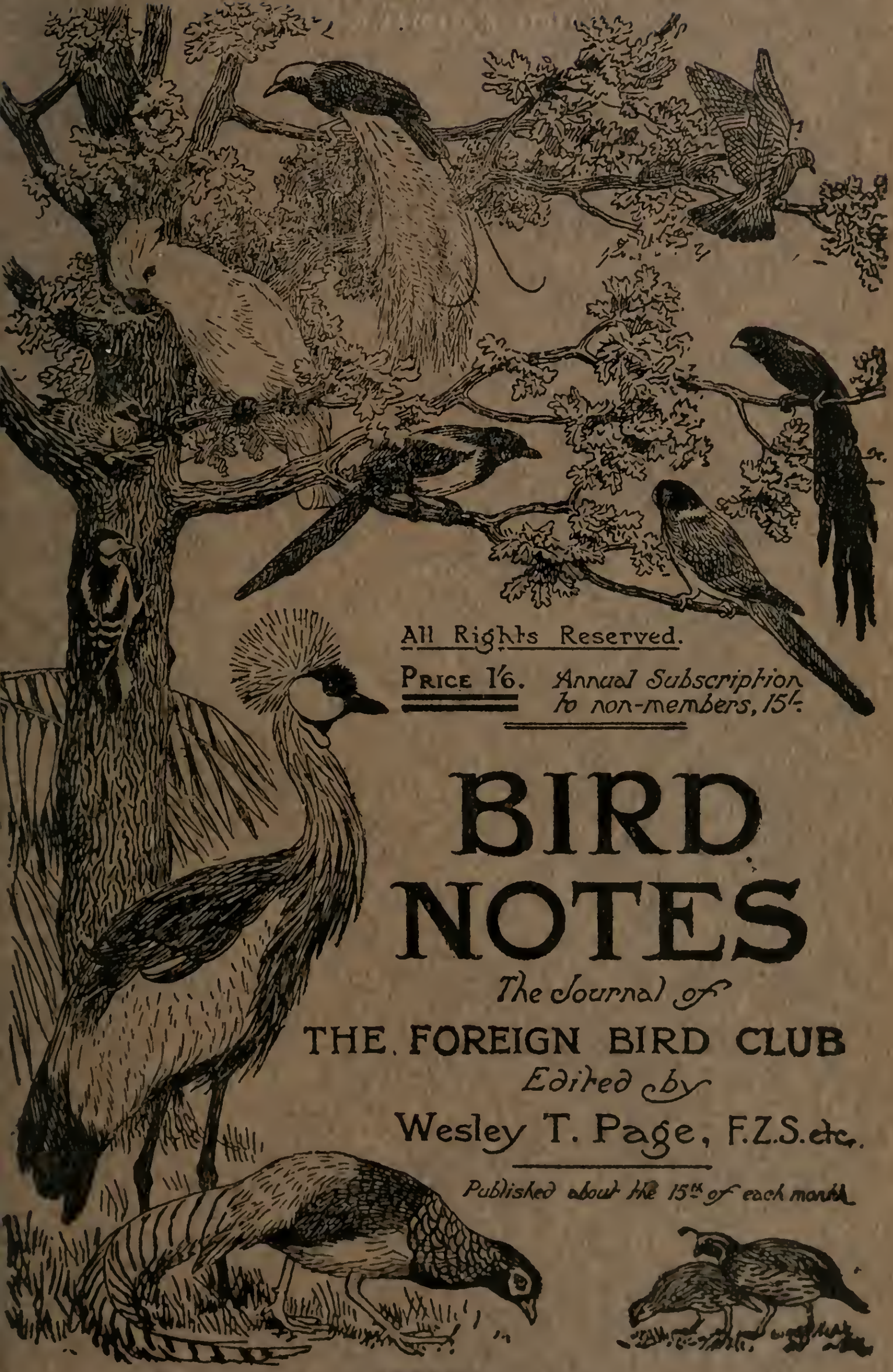

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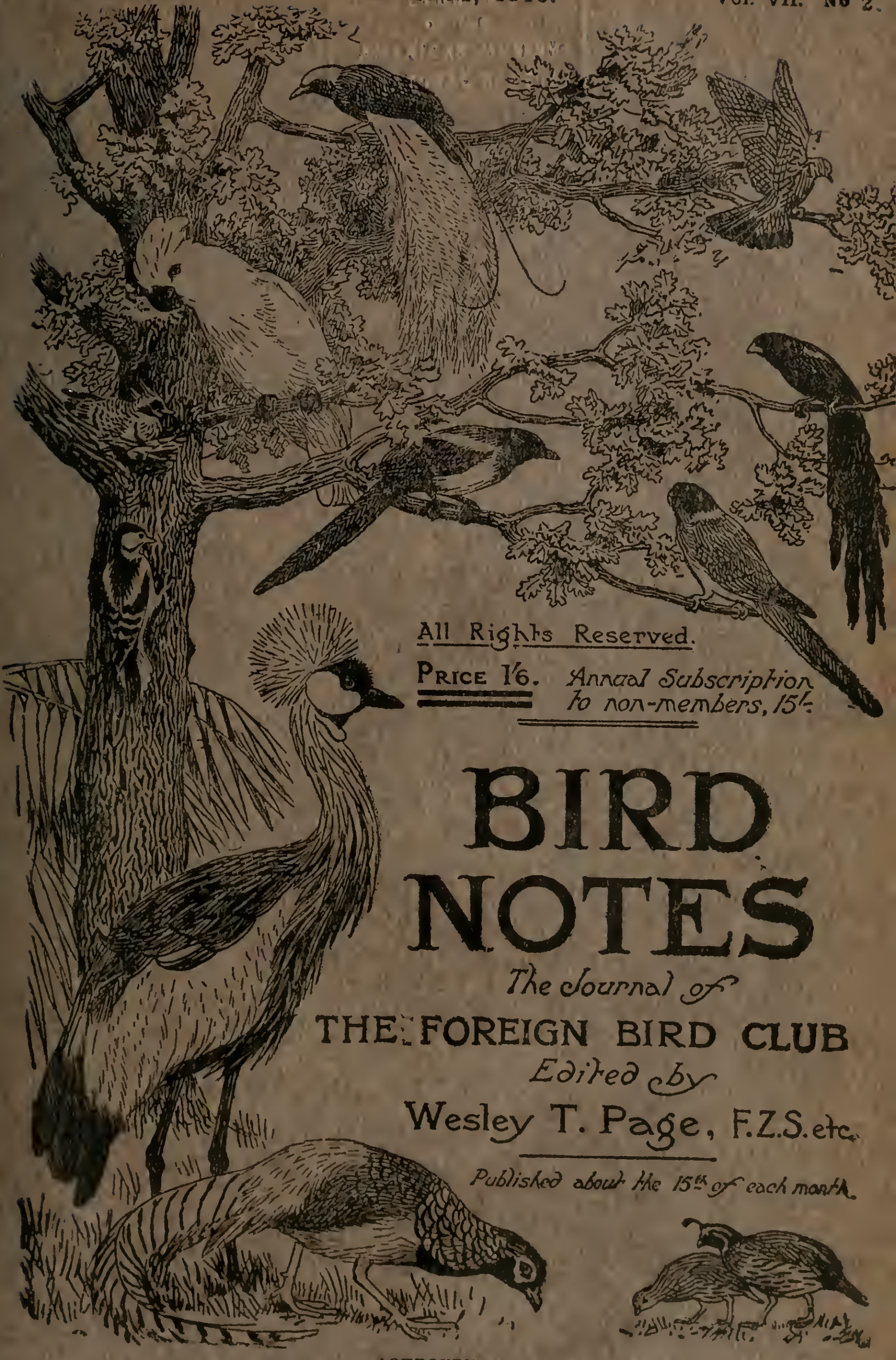

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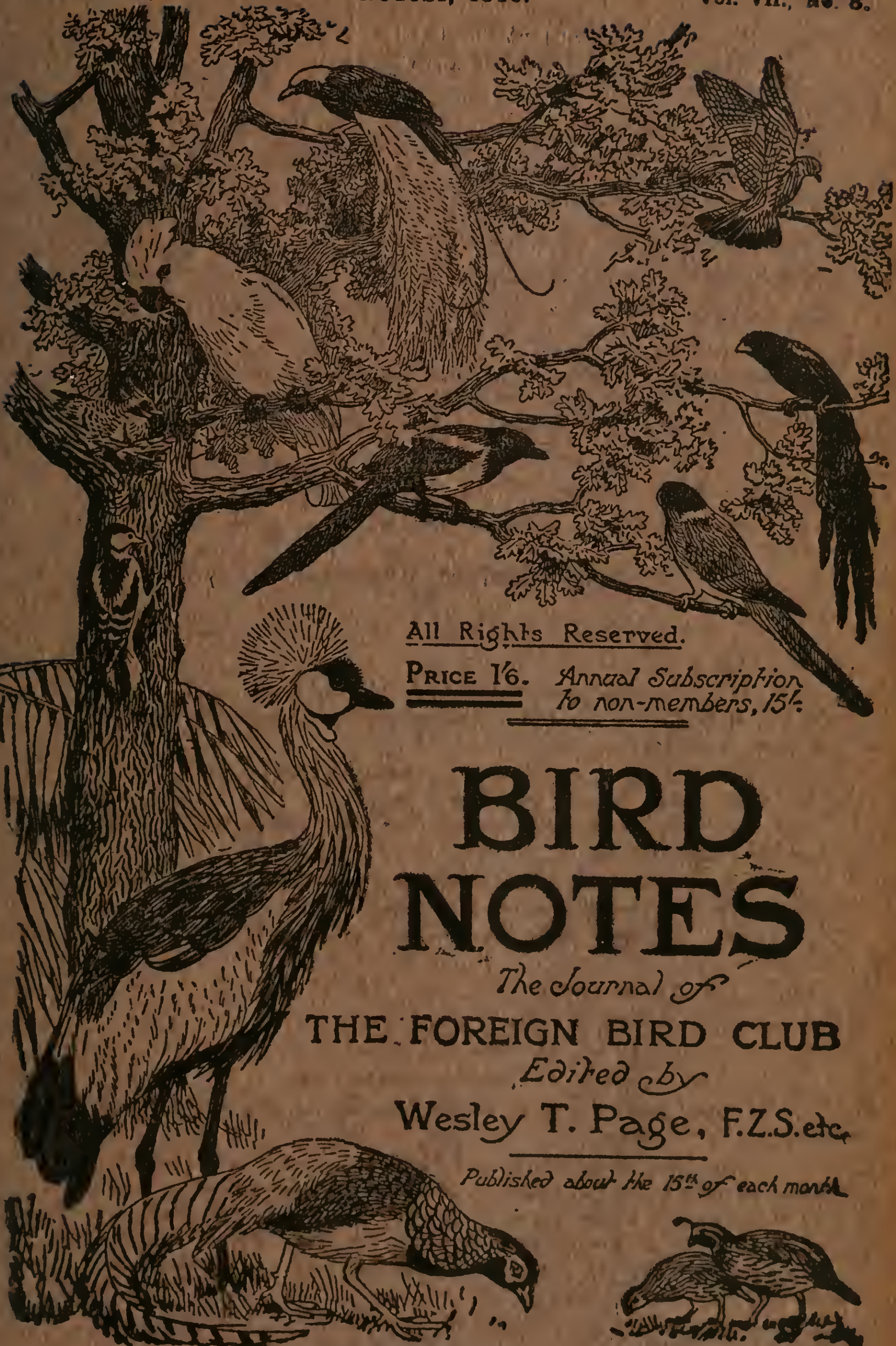

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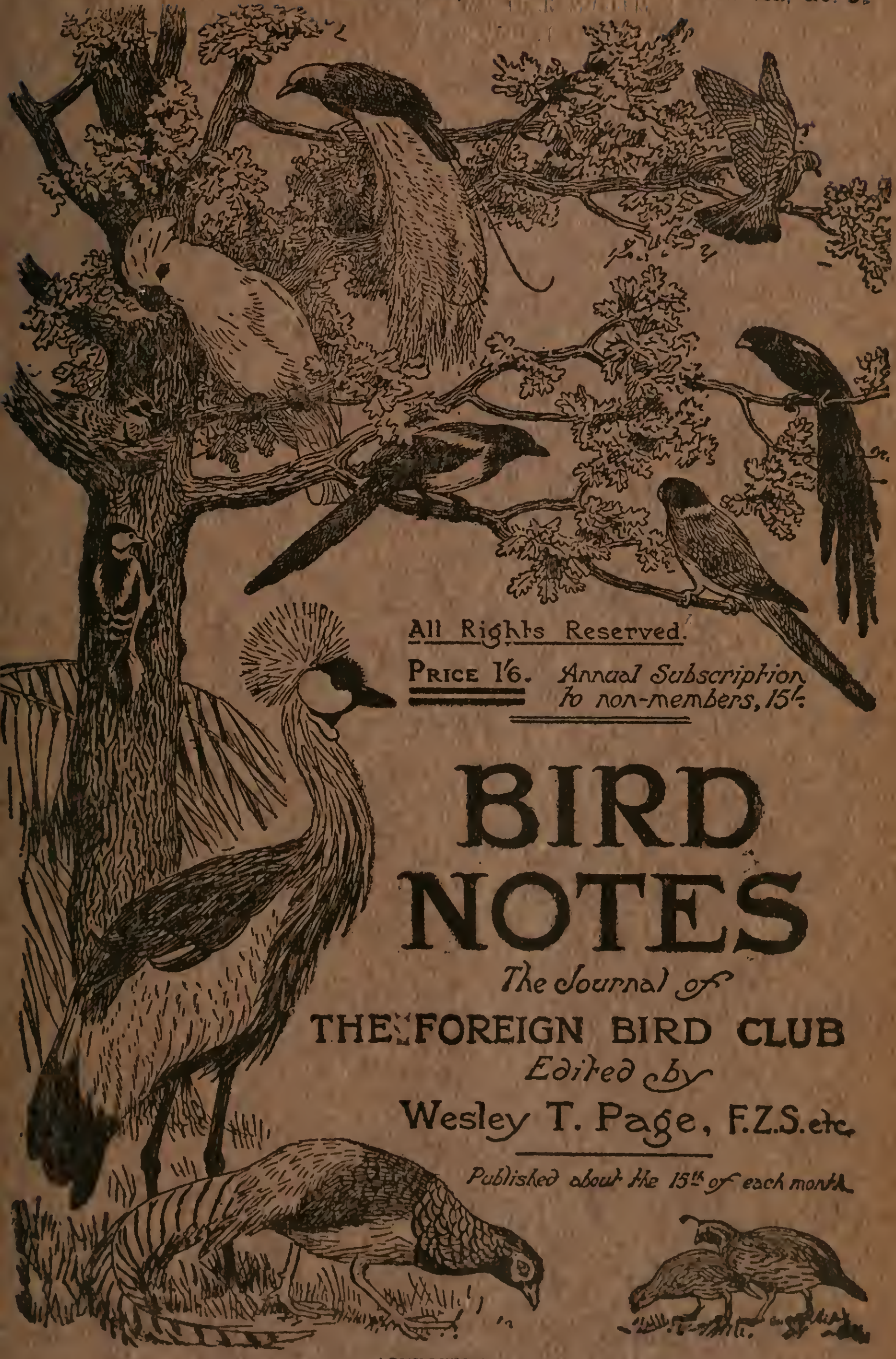

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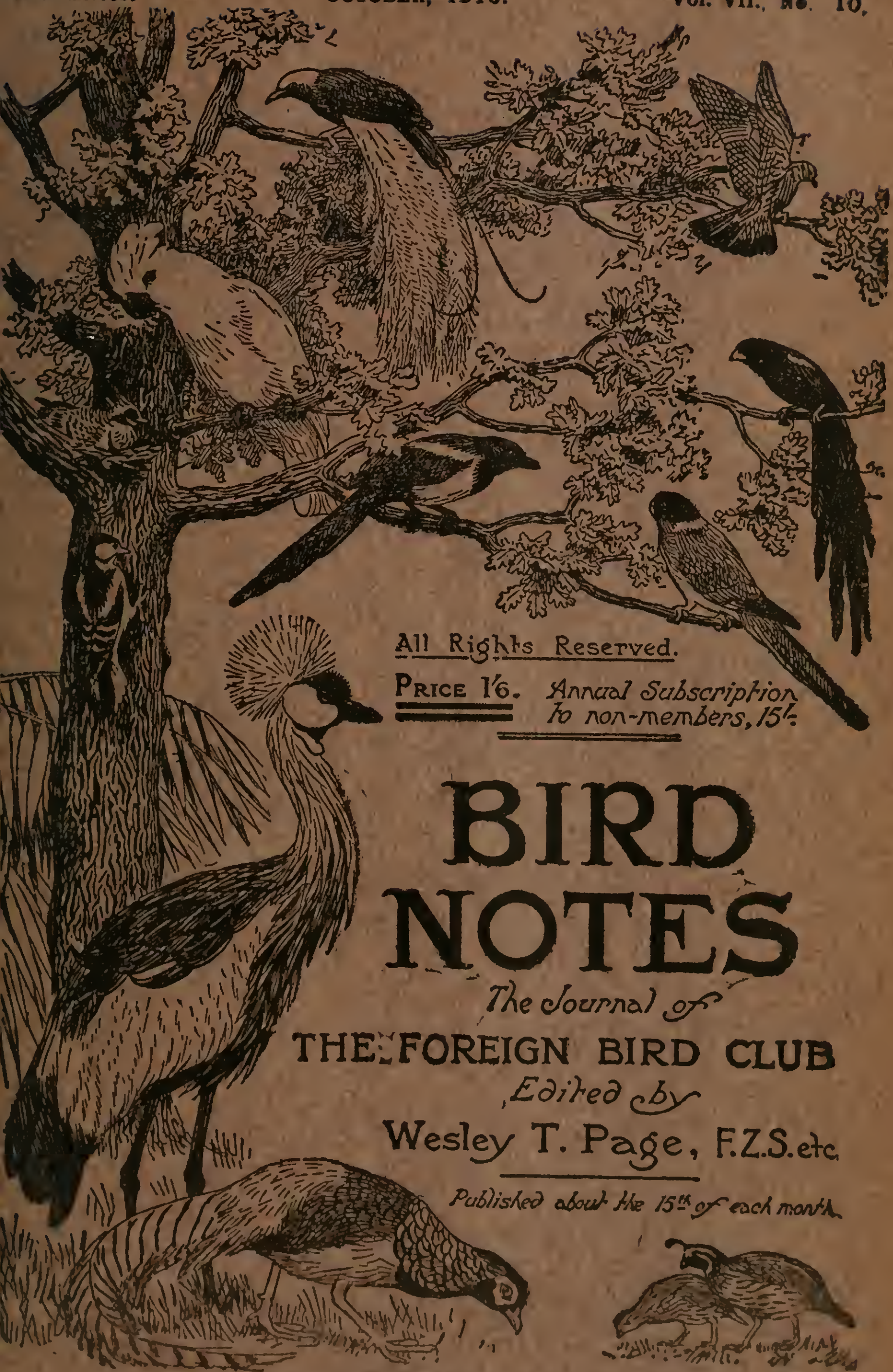

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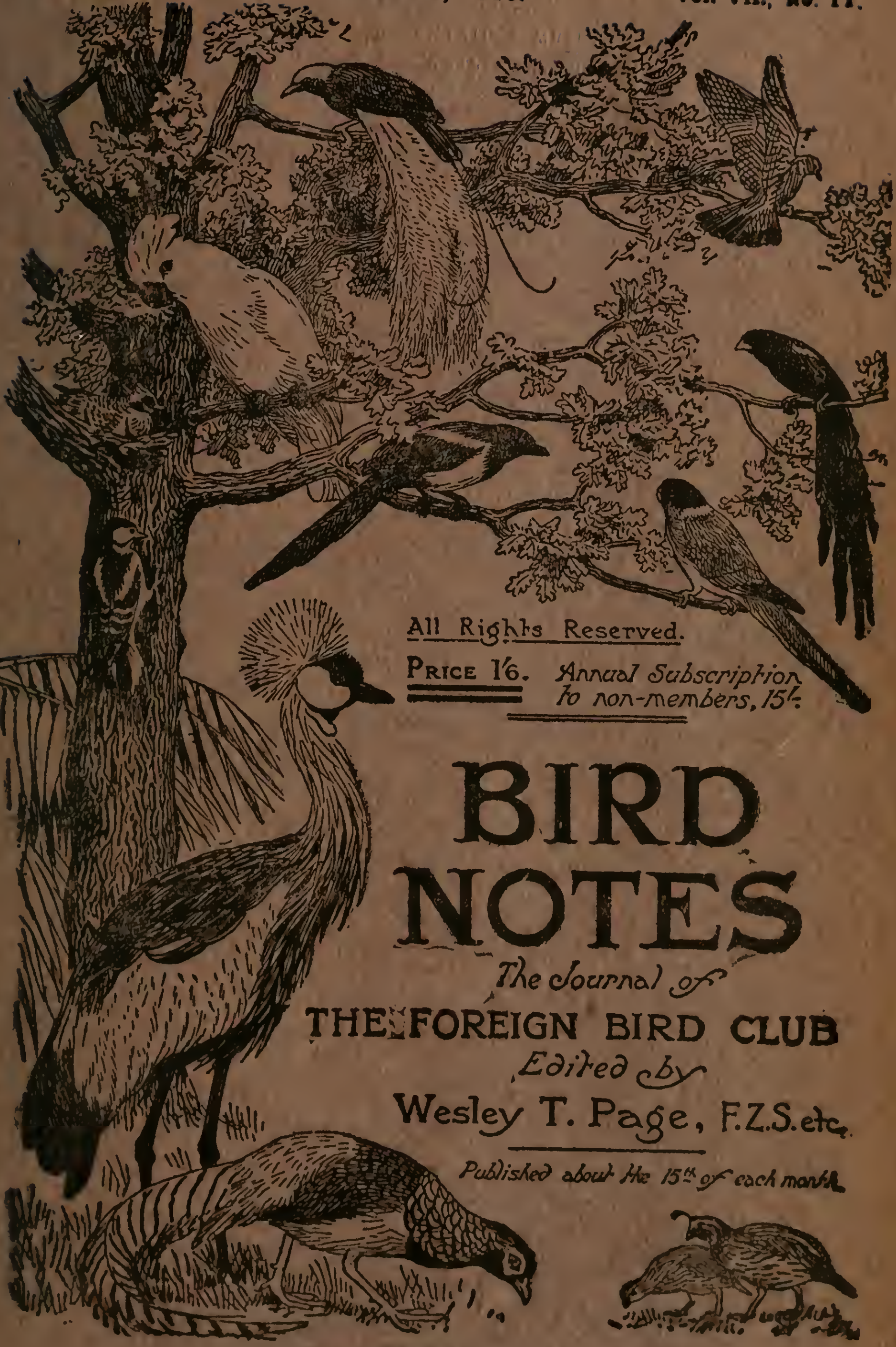

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